

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 555 Christian Road, 764 Southford Road

City or town: Middlebury State: Connecticut County: New Haven

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A    \_\_\_ B    \_\_\_ C    \_\_\_ D

_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

---

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/corporate headquarters, research and design

LANDSCAPE/natural feature, parking lot, unoccupied land

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/corporate headquarters, research and design  
LANDSCAPE/natural feature, parking lot, unoccupied land

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Contemporary

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: GLASS; STEEL

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Timex Corporate Headquarters is an 85,000 square-foot building in Middlebury, New Haven County, Connecticut that was purpose-built in 2000-2001 as an administrative and design center for the international watchmaking company. It is located on a 93-acre parcel of land at 555 Christian Road in the southwestern portion of Middlebury. Lead architect Douglas Disbrow of Fletcher Tompson, Inc., designed the building and Jack Curtis + Associates rendered the landscape plan. The building features a long rectangular plan with convex south-facing façade, a vaulted dome roof with an oculus, and walls of transparent insulated glass which allow for a panoramic exterior view of the site. Constructed to match the contour of the site's natural drumlin, or ridge, the lower level of the building is set 15-feet below grade. This allows for the building's low profile and reflective exterior wall glazing system to appear as an organic element of the surrounding natural landscape; the building appears as a one-story structure from most vantage points. The building and campus remain substantially intact. Contributing elements include the Timex Corporate Headquarters Building (2001), one site (landscape features, 2001), and one object (Woodhenge, 2001).

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

---

**Narrative Description<sup>1</sup>**

***Setting***

The Timex Headquarters is located on the east side of Christian Road, Middlebury in the Central Naugatuck Valley geophysical region of Connecticut (Figures 1–2). The original undeveloped 130 acre-parcel comprised open meadow, riparian wetlands, vernal pools, and second and third growth stands of mixed hardwoods.<sup>2</sup> A large, cleared area used for grazing and hay production occupied the highest elevations of the property and was selected for the building site. Dense woods border the property on the west, south, and east. The parcel is bounded by Judd Hill Road to the north, Christian Road to the east, Southford Road to the south, and North Benson Road to the west. This section of Middlebury remained sparsely populated and consisted of rural agricultural land through the late-twentieth century (Figure 3). In 2002, the agricultural setting changed when the former Avalon Dairy Farm on the west side of Christian Road was purchased for the construction of a residential subdivision (Figures 2 and 4). The corporate headquarters property is 7.5 miles (mi) to the New Haven commuter rail line, 24 mi from Danbury, 35 mi from Hartford, and 90 mi from New York City.

***Landscape (Contributing Site, 2001)***

The property offered a distinctive landscape feature known as a drumlin, or ridge, which formed from glacial activity (Figures 5 and 6). At an elevation of 740 feet (ft) above sea mean level, the top of the drumlin serves as the platform for the building site and offers 360-degree unobstructed views. The physical orientation and size of the drumlin guided the design for the building's true-north orientation and ultimate configuration.<sup>3</sup> Timex named the site of their new headquarters "Watch Hill." The base of the hill is at 650 ft above mean sea level to the south and east. The main entrance to the property is on Christian Road, approximately 0.11-mile (mi) north of CT-188. From the entrance, Timex Road extends in a westerly direction and curves northward along the east side of the parking lot. As the road ascends the south face of Watch Hill, the setting shifts from a tree-lined drive to an open vista (Photographs 1-2). Timex Road terminates at the main entrance, and parking area on the east side of the building (Figure 2).

Fletcher Thompson, Inc. incorporated the site's topography by designing a visually striking curved window wall on the façade (south elevation), which mirrors the curvature of the drumlin (Photograph 3). The building and surrounding lawn occupy the flat, elliptical-shaped peak. Single planted trees encircle the building and extend north creating an enclosed section on the north lawn (Photograph 4). This open area was laid out to anticipate future expansion of the building to the north (Photograph 5). The Jack Curtis + Associates designed landscape surrounding the building includes a north and south lawn, or meadow, which conform to the contours of the hill. A continuous walkway follows the edges of the lawn and echoes the elliptical shape of the drumlin's peak.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note, copies of original architectural drawings and landscape plans were not available for this nomination.

<sup>2</sup> Timex Corporation, "Watch Hill: A Walking Tour," Booklet (Middlebury, CT: Timex Corporation, 2001).

<sup>3</sup> Timex Corporation, "Watch Hill: A Walking Tour."

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

A parking lot for employees and visitors on the southwestern side of Timex Road was purposefully sited 0.25-mi from the building's entrance to ensure that employees would benefit from exercise each day.<sup>4</sup> The parking area is positioned at an elevation below the tree line to preserve the site's view and natural setting. As designed, the parking lot blends into the natural wooded landscape. A tree perimeter and surrounding woods enclose the three-tiered parking lot. Two rows of trees divide the parking lot sections and further buffers the area from view. The parking lot was designed to be invisible to both the employees working in the building and passersby, blending the corporate campus into its natural surroundings.

The 0.25-mi asphalt covered pedestrian pathway extends north from the parking area and splits at the south end of the south lawn at "Woodhenge," a time-telling installation (see discussion below). The pathways follow the south lawn's edge to the amphitheater on the west side of the building and the main entrance on the east side. This pathway network was designed to provide workers and visitors an opportunity to enjoy the location's scenic setting and shifting horizon, as defined by the change in elevation of the pathways. The lower level of the building was constructed below grade with the entrance 15 ft below the main office floor (Photograph 8). Various aspects of the building's relationship to the land are concealed and revealed from different vantage points along the pathways. The pathways were also designed to promote health and recreation for the company's staff.

An amphitheater located on the on the west side of the building's lower level was designed as an outdoor extension of the workplace. Access to the amphitheater is from the dining area on the lower level of the building. The open area functions as a multipurpose space for large gatherings, a dining terrace, and an alternate workspace. The enclosing retaining walls shaping the contours of the amphitheater consist of gabions. These wire cages contain stone aggregate procured on site that were processed to an appropriate aggregate size. Flowering annual plantings adorn the top of the retaining wall steps. The character of the retaining walls resembles the stone walls once erected by the property's former inhabitants.

Prominently sited along the pathway to the building, "Woodhenge" is a historical time-telling device consisting of a circle of 15-ft tall wooden posts that line up with the sun at certain times of the year (Photograph 11). Granite markers embedded in the ground identify the appropriate station point for alignment with the center pole and a perimeter pole signifying the sun's position at sunrise or sunset for the dates associated with solstices and equinoxes.

In 2009, a solar array consisting of 27 rows of 244 kW solar panels was installed on the eastern portion of the property. Solar energy is an important component of the company's plan to lessen its environmental footprint.

***Timex Headquarters Building (Contributing Building, 2001)***

**Exterior**

---

<sup>4</sup> Timex Corporation, "Watch Hill: A Walking Tour."

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

The Timex Headquarters is two-story building with a long rectangular plan (390 ft by 140 ft), a prominent convex façade (south) and a vaulted roof, which covers highly transparent insulating glass curtain walls. The north elevation, below the circular guideline of the roof, features glass supported on lightened steel panels with elliptical holes secured by PUNTpart stainless-steel connectors and articulated bolts (Photographs 5 through 7).<sup>5</sup> Curtain walls on the south and side elevations incorporate custom-made horizontal stainless-steel arms attached to the center of the building's steel columns which hold the frameless glass with the same point-fixed glazing system (Photographs 9 and 14).<sup>6</sup> Roof materials include mill-finished aluminum with aluminum scuppers, structural glass leaders, and granite splash blocks set in basins lined with washed river-stone (Photographs 9-10 and 14). The water outlet from the roof passes through downspouts constructed in stainless steel and glass rain ladders. This unique system regulates the passage of water with steps of different inclinations and different density of perforations. Rain ladders are positioned at every other scupper and fabricated with the same point supported glass components as the exterior wall glazing system (Photographs 9-10). At the scupper location is a cast bronze baffle, fabricated by a bell foundry in Catalonia, Spain, that directs the runoff to the ladder steps below. A granite splash block anchors the ladder and directs the water to a grey water recycling system.

From most vantage points, the two-story building presents as one-story except where the building's sectional characteristics are revealed on the side elevations at the main entrance and amphitheater. The lower level of the building was constructed below grade with the entrance located 15 ft under the main office floor (Photograph 8). The main entrance and a service bay are on the east elevation in the northern section of the building. Curved, stepped retaining walls consisting of wire-caged gabions containing stone aggregate define the entrance area. The stones were procured on site and processed to an appropriate aggregate size for the gabions. A landscaped island with concrete retaining wall separates the main entrance and serves as a visual buffer. As designed, the landscaped island mirrors the curvature of the south retaining wall and encloses the approach to the entrance. The three-bay-wide east entrance wall consists of two entrances with double-leaf metal and glass doors and a glass panel bay. The recessed service bay has a single loading-bay door.

Future expansion of the northern end of building was planned for in the original design through extrusion of the barrel vault components. The building's point-supported glass system has the capability to be efficiently disassembled, relocated, and re-erected.

### *Interior*

The east entrance on the lower level is the primary interior access point to the building.

---

<sup>5</sup> Bellapart, "Timex Group Headquarters," 2024, accessed June 26, [<sup>6</sup> Bellapart, "Timex Group Headquarters."](https://www.bellapart.com/project/timex-group-headquarters/#:~:text=The%20façade%20of%20the%20Timex,highly%20transparent%20insulating%20glass%20façades.; PUNTpart is a point fixing system for architectural glass patented by Bellapart.</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

The main entrance opens into a lobby on the roughly 40,000-sq ft lower level of the building, which functions as the primary reception area. A dining area, originally known as “Time Out,” and the lobby serve as the main public gathering space at the Headquarters.<sup>7</sup> The glazed walls allow sightlines from the front entrance through the dining area to the outside amphitheater on the west side of the building. The lobby was designed as a central distribution point for the secondary rooms and amenities on the lower level supporting the daily operations of the Headquarters. As designed, the “Product Housing Room” is adjacent to the north side of the lobby and includes a display area for existing and future merchandising fixtures and point-of-purchase materials, allowing employees and visitors to see how Timex products are presented in a variety of retail environments.<sup>8</sup> Other lower level secondary rooms include a boardroom, large and small conference rooms, a digital photography studio and engineering lab, an information technology room, restrooms, a fitness center, an employee locker room with shower facilities, and a shipping and receiving room. The fitness center facility occupies the center of the lower level.

Access to the main office floor is gained by ascending a single extra-wide staircase in the east-west axis of the building between the main entrance/lobby and the amphitheater (Photograph 12). The staircase is set in a circular opening which echoes the curved south wall. This single staircase feature was also designed with adequate space to support impromptu meetings among workers.<sup>9</sup>

The open 45,000-sq ft main office floor provides 360-degree unobstructed views of the surrounding Middlebury countryside (Figure 7; Photographs 13-15). To maximize the diffusion of natural light, the walls were designed with a point-supported glazing system consisting of full-height glass panels (Photographs 13-14). The glass walls work in conjunction with skylights and an artificial lighting system to provide a cost-effective lighting strategy. A lighting control system monitors the amount of natural light in the space and dims the artificial light source to create the correct lighting level at the work surface. Air conditioning shafts and the elevator shaft were installed with point-fixed glass façades as a reflection of the exterior façades. The ceiling features a series of suspended lighting and acoustical perforated metal ceiling “clouds” with a Claro finish (Photograph 15).<sup>10</sup> The sleek, custom S-shaped “clouds” also present a visual effect of floating clouds. Each cloud provides the reflective surface for an adjacent energy-efficient light source, which produces an indirect lighting solution to support the computer-oriented workforce.

The main office floor is an 18-inch-deep plenum (air-filled space under a raised floor) that facilitates air circulation for heating and air conditioning systems and distribution conduits for power, data, and voice cabling (Figure 6). Each workstation’s microclimate is controlled by operable diffusers in the floor. Power, data, and voice outlet boxes located in the floor are

---

<sup>7</sup> Timex Corporation, “Watch Hill: A Walking Tour.”

<sup>8</sup> Timex Corporation, “Watch Hill: A Walking Tour.”

<sup>9</sup> Timex Corporation, “Watch Hill: A Walking Tour.”

<sup>10</sup> Decoustics Claro®, custom color-matching finish options for light reflectance manufactured by Certain Teed, Inc, Saint-Gobain.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

coupled with an adaptable furniture system that promotes a flexible environment. The plenum was designed to anticipate any future technological advances in voice and data cabling systems.

The main floor was designed with a “Meridian Line” through the center of the room along the building’s true-north orientation. An oculus in the south end of the domed roof filters a band of sunlight onto a solar calendar consisting of bronze medallions in the office floor (Figure 9). This designed interior time-tracking feature marks solstices and equinoxes and incorporates the company’s long history in the measurement of time and timekeeping.

To promote collaboration and teaming among the headquarters staff of 250 individuals, this flexible open workspace was rendered as a single 45,000 square foot room without walls (Figure 5). A hardwood walkway surrounds the perimeter of the main office floor and provides access to different sections of the main floor. Zones within the space respond to environmental conditions and contribute to the definition of “rooms within a room.” The southern section contains the executive, legal, human resources, finance, and information technology operations. Manufacturing and engineering departments occupy the center section of the floor. The northern section houses the sales, brand marketing, industrial design, and business groups. These more traditionally rendered spaces complement the open environment of the main office floor.

The room’s design integrated an organizational model based on a “nomadic type” work force to anticipate project team behavior.<sup>11</sup> Through its architectural expression, the open main office floor reveals opportunities for defining office neighborhoods within the overall work community and supports both agile working and activity-based working.<sup>12</sup> This is achieved through manipulation of the dynamic components of the flexible and adaptable space and by reference to the integrated and changeable systems defining the building envelope.<sup>13</sup> Office neighborhoods consist of groupings of different workstations, collaborative spaces, and support spaces that support both agile working and activity-based working. Based on the premise that physical boundaries can create intellectual boundaries, the main floor’s transparent architecture establishes visual access among employees to promote the flow and free exchange of ideas. The elimination of offices, an open perimeter, and a window view for all staff was intended to express the client’s corporate ideology through this design concept that intellectual capital is Timex’s paramount asset.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Integrity***

The Timex Corporate Headquarters building retains a high degree of architectural integrity to convey its function as a corporate headquarters symbolic of the Timex Company’s production of timepieces. The relationship between the property’s location and the building’s design and landscape architecture remains intact. The building’s siting on top of a drumlin with

<sup>11</sup> Timex Corporation, “Watch Hill: A Walking Tour.”

<sup>12</sup> Timex Corporation, “Watch Hill: A Walking Tour.”

<sup>13</sup> Timex Corporation, “Watch Hill: A Walking Tour.”

<sup>14</sup> Timex Corporation, “Watch Hill: A Walking Tour.”

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property

unobstructed 360-degree views served as the primary influence for its design and north-south orientation. The property's natural environment complements the setting and is reflected in the building's design.

There have been no discernible alterations to the campus except for the addition of a solar array, which was installed to support the building's efficiency in the use of energy. The surrounding area's transition from mixed residential and agricultural land to primarily residential has minimally affected the overall landscape.

The building retains its design as completed in 2001. Original floor plans and spaces have not been modified. According to Save Middlebury Historic, Inc., all key original materials remain intact.<sup>15</sup> The selection and combination of materials, specifically walls designed with a point supported glazing system, reveal the preferences of "green building" concepts at the turn of the twentieth-first century. The building retains integrity of workmanship through its retention of construction methods and technologies that are expressive of the "green building" architectural movement. These include features such as the glass and steel panel exterior walls allowing for ample natural light and reduction of artificial lighting and the glass rain ladder system which collects runoff as part of a grey water recycling system.

The physical features of the building's aesthetic and landscape architecture convey the original concept for the Timex Corporate Headquarters. The worker-centered concepts of health and well-being reflected in the property's landscape design is intact. The building retains its feeling and association as a corporate headquarters campus constructed at the turn of the twenty-first century.

---

<sup>15</sup> Save Historic Middlebury Inc., viewed the exterior and interior of the Timex Corporate Headquarters on October 23, 2023. A subsequent visit to the property conducted on August 11, 2024, was limited to visual inspection of the exterior.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

**New Haven, Connecticut**

County and State

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

Landscape Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

2001-2023

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

2001: Building completed

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Douglas Disbrow of Fletcher Thompson, Inc.

Jack Curtis + Associates

\_\_\_\_\_

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Timex Corporate Headquarters is significant under National Register of Historic Places criterion A and C at the national level. Under criterion A in the area of Commerce, the building is significant for its historic and current association with the domestic and international clock- and watch manufacturing industry. The Timex Corporation is further significant for its association and prominence in American popular culture and social history. When the new headquarters was planned at the end of the 1990s, the Timex Corporation was the last timepiece maker, clock or watch, in Connecticut and the only surviving independent watch manufacturer in the United States. Completed in 2001, the headquarters building was conceived to represent both the legacy and future of the 170-year-old international watchmaking company. For Timex, as a globally recognized brand leader in technology and fashion, their new corporate headquarters represents that industry leadership and embodies the company's heritage of good design and innovation.<sup>16</sup> The architecture and surrounding environment were designed as an environment where creativity and innovation would flourish.

The building and its designed landscape have achieved significance within the past 50 years and meets Criterion Consideration G. As the National Register's 50-year period is an arbitrary span of time, this nomination considers the significance of architectural design at the beginning of the twentieth-first century and the continuous progression of contemporary corporate architecture to present. The building has been widely recognized and has received several professional awards for its design.

Under Criterion C, the building possesses significance in the area of Architecture for advancing design principles of American contemporary architecture and sustainability at the turn of the twenty-first century. The building, amphitheater, and landscape elements were designed by Fletcher Tompson, Inc., and Jack Curtis + Associates, two Connecticut-based firms. Construction of the facility began in 2000 and was completed in 2001. The design minimizes dependence on fossil-fuel-derived energy and maximizes the use of non-depletable ambient energies. The architectural approach for the headquarters changed the paradigm of how buildings can be more than a "container" of a company.<sup>17</sup> The open 45,000 sq ft main office floor was conceived without walls to inspire collaboration and teaming among the Timex Headquarters staff of 250 individuals. Minimal use of permanent partitions allows for broad diffusion of daylight within the building. Timex's corporate identity as a watchmaker is physically manifested through the main floor design with a "Meridian Line" through the center of the room along the building's true-north orientation. An oculus in the southern end of the domed roof filters a band of sunlight onto a solar calendar consisting of bronze medallions in the office floor. This designed interior time-tracking feature marks solstices and equinoxes and incorporates the

<sup>16</sup> Timex Corporation, "Watch Hill: A Walking Tour."

<sup>17</sup> Doug Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, in conversation with the author, July 12, 2024.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

company's long history in the measurement of time and timekeeping. As designed, the integration of the "Meridian Line" in the Headquarters building and "Woodhenge" into the landscape linked the technologically sophisticated facility with historically significant events.<sup>18</sup>

After its completion in July 2001, *Fast Company* magazine extolled the building's open main floor plan as a transformative workspace design.<sup>19</sup> The article further asserts, with the oculus in the domed roof serving as a solar calendar, that the "building itself is a watch."<sup>20</sup> Fletcher Thompson, Inc., received the AIA Design Award for the Timex Corporate Headquarters from three AIA Chapters (Connecticut [2005], New England [2004], and New Jersey [2004]).

Timex Corporate Headquarters is also an early example of "green building" which combines fully sustainable environments that address a series of interrelated issues of social, cultural, psychological, technical, and ecological.<sup>21</sup> Fletcher Thompson, Inc., included the following sustainability criteria in their design: low energy/high performance; replenishable sources; recycling; embodied energy; long life, loose fit; total life cycle costing; embedded in place; access and urban context; health and happiness; and community and connection.<sup>22</sup>

The period of significance begins with the completion of the building and designed landscape in 2001 and ownership of the building by Timex. The end date of the period of significance coincides with the date Timex sold the property in October of 2023.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Commerce**

***Clock-and Watch Making Context***

For millennia, the study of time and its measurement had been based on observation of the predictable travel of the sun through the sky, cycles of the moon, and the passage of the seasons. Efforts to measure time in smaller increments were carried out by observing the activity of such

---

<sup>18</sup> Timex Corporation, "Watch Hill: A Walking Tour."

<sup>19</sup> Lieber, Ron, "Timex Resets its Watch," *Fast Company*, 31 October 2001.  
<https://www.fastcompany.com/44131/timex-resets-its-watch>.

<sup>20</sup> Lieber, Ron, "Timex Resets its Watch."

<sup>21</sup> Doug Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, "Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation." website (not active), ZeroElevenDesign (zed), 2011.

<sup>22</sup> Doug Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, "Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation,;" embodied energy is the energy consumed by all of the processes associated with the production of a building which includes the energy required to extract, manufacture, transport, and assemble the materials comprising the building.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

devices as burning oil, dripping water, graduated candles, and falling sand.<sup>23</sup> In the mid-17th century, the Italian physicist and astronomer Galileo (1564–1642) furthered this quest when discovering a pendulum’s swing takes the same amount of time regardless of the distance it travels and the weight of the bob at the end. In 1656 Christian Huygens, a Dutchman, incorporated the pendulum’s periodic motion into a mechanical clock, improving its accuracy from within hours to within minutes per day. From that innovation sprang the modern clock- and watch-making industry.

***Clock-and Watchmaking Context: Connecticut’s Naugatuck Valley***

Connecticut’s clock-and watchmaking industry began in the late eighteenth century when English clockmaker Thomas Harland arrived in Norwich in 1773.<sup>24</sup> Harland repaired watches and made clock movements with brass gears and finely engraved dials. Several apprentices worked under Harland, including Daniel Burnap who opened a business in what became the town of South Windsor in Hartford County. Eli Terry was one of Burlap’s apprentices who went on to transform clock making from a craft to an industry.<sup>25</sup> Though trained in manufacturing molded brass gears, Terry explored the less expensive wooden movements made by Benjamin and Timothy Cheney in East Hartford. By 1806, Terry refined the wooden movements made from local hardwood that was cut using water-powered saws. Identical wood gears were produced using less-skilled labor than was required for the manufacture of brass gears. Terry introduced an experimental shelf clock to be mass produced in 1814 and released as the Pillar and Scroll Top clock.

During the 1820s and 1830s, the clockmaking industry rapidly grew in Connecticut with more than 280 clock manufacturer’s labels identified in Bristol alone.<sup>26</sup> In 1837, Chauncy Jerome, a student of Eli Terry, built the Jerome Manufacturing Company in Bristol, Connecticut. Jerome introduced simple and inexpensive brass movements to the state’s wooden clock making industry. The Benedict and Burnham Manufacturing Company of Westbury supplied raw materials to Chauncey Jerome Manufacturing Company. Jerome’s company sold millions of inexpensive brass-movement clocks to both domestic and international markets. Connecticut clockmakers produced 511,000 clocks in 1850 to become the leading clock manufacturer in the United States.<sup>27</sup> With the rise in clock production in Connecticut, small manufacturers were established to manufacture clock components including weights, bells, dials, painted tablets, and springs.

For the next century and a half, clocks and watches made in Europe and America were hand crafted, with each part made and fitted separately. Innovation occurred over the next century, and by the late 1800s, the clockmaking industry had helped establish Connecticut as one of the

<sup>23</sup> Muller, Donald, “Everyman’s Time: The Rise and Fall of Connecticut Clockmaking,” Connecticut Explorer Fall 2007, accessed June 26, 2024, <https://www.ctexplored.org/everymans-time-the-rise-and-fall-of-connecticut-clockmaking/#:~:text=Connecticut's%20clock%20and%20watch%20industry,gears%20and%20finely%20engraved%20dials.>

<sup>24</sup> Muller, Donald, “Everyman’s Time: The Rise and Fall of Connecticut Clockmaking.”

<sup>25</sup> Muller, Donald, “Everyman’s Time: The Rise and Fall of Connecticut Clockmaking.”

<sup>26</sup> Muller, Donald, “Everyman’s Time: The Rise and Fall of Connecticut Clockmaking.”

<sup>27</sup> Muller, Donald, “Everyman’s Time: The Rise and Fall of Connecticut Clockmaking.”



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

nation's leading industrial areas. A century later, though, clock- and watchmaking had nearly all but disappeared from the state.<sup>28</sup>

### **Waterbury Clock Company**

The Timex Corporation traces its early corporate history to the Waterbury Clock Company, which began in 1854 as a branch of the Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing Company in Waterbury.<sup>29</sup> The Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing Company was the town's leading brassmaker and had previously established the first brass-rolling operation in the country in 1825. Their slogan "a good article at a good price," has endured as a pillar the corporate philosophy through the early twenty-first century. In 1855, the company hired Noble Jerome, brother of the noted clockmaker Chauncy Jerome, to operate a movement shop in a building adjacent to its main brass factory. After Chauncy Jerome's company was forced into bankruptcy in the same year, he joined his brother Noble at the new Westbury company for a few months designing and patenting new clock case designs. Benedict & Burnham began case-making in a small factory building at the plant in the following year.

On May 27, 1857, the Waterbury Clock Company was incorporated as a separate entity with a capital of \$60,000. As established in the company's by-laws, the Waterbury Clock Company's purpose was, "To Manufacture, sell, and deal in clocks and Time Keepers of distinction." The new company represented an effective integration of Connecticut's two most important manufacturing enterprises, Naugatuck Valley clock manufacture and Waterbury brass making. The formation of the new corporation also coincided with the onset of a national financial panic of 1857 wherein all but one of the 60 clock manufacturers in the neighboring town of Bristol went bankrupt. However, with the backing of Benedict & Burnham, the Waterbury Clock Company avoided financial disaster.

During the next two decades, the Waterbury Clock Company experienced a period of growth and expansion. By 1878, the company had outgrown its movement shop and relocated into a former woolen mill in Waterbury. Their original shops adjacent to the Benedict & Burnham plant were expanded. The company also broadened its sales distribution strategy with operating sales "depots" in New York City, Chicago, and San Francisco.

In 1880, Benedict & Burnham stockholders established a separate corporation to make watches under the name Waterbury Watch Company. The new company was financed with \$400,000 in capital. With the growing popularity of pocket watches in the 1880s, Waterbury Watch Company expanded its product line with the introduction of a clock movement small enough to fit into a pocket watch case. Designed by the company's master mechanic Archibald Bannatyne, the new

---

<sup>28</sup> Muller, Donald, "Everyman's Time: The Rise and Fall of Connecticut Clockmaking."

<sup>29</sup> Information on the Timex Corporation was primarily obtained from Kathleen McDermott, *Timex: A Company and Its Community, 1854-1998* (n.p.: Timex Corporation, 1998) and Timex, "About Timex – Our History, Innovation, and Promise, <https://timex.com/pages/about-us#:~:text=In%201854%2C%20we%20combined%20European,licking%20and%20keep%20on%20ticking.>

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property

almost one-inch thick and two-inch thick pocket watch was named “Jumbo” to capitalize on the fame of P.T. Barnum’s circus elephant. This marked the first time the company would use popular culture in their branding. With the addition of the “Jumbo” pocket watch, the company soon became the primary supplier to New York City salesman Robert H. Ingersoll. The success of the Waterbury Clock Company was on full display with their pavilion at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Bannatyne and the Waterbury Clock Company continued to work on designing a smaller pocket watch for the Robert H. Ingersoll & Brother Company. In 1896, the new Ingersoll Yankee pocket watch became the first “dollar” watch.

Despite the company’s success, making more watches per day than any factory in the world, the mass production of its product alone would no longer suffice. Other business practices such as marketing and distribution were necessary to succeed in the new millennium. The Waterbury Clock Company went into bankruptcy in 1896 and was succeeded by the New England Watch Company two years later. The new company shifted from its predecessor’s simple roots to producing fancy jeweled watches. These new higher-end watches were unsuccessful, and the company struggled to remain in business. The New England Watch Company permanently ceased operation in 1912. The Robert H. Ingersoll & Brother Company purchased the New England Watch Company plant in 1914 for manufacturing timepieces.

By 1921, Waterbury Clock Company and the Robert H. Ingersoll & Brother Company had ceased their business relationship. Waterbury Clock Company implemented a new independent marketing campaign. With Ingersoll’s filing for bankruptcy in December of the same year, the Waterbury Clock Company would gain total control for the watches it had produced for the past 30 years. The company created a new division called the Ingersoll-Waterbury company to direct the manufacturing of Ingersoll watches and alarm clocks.

***Historic Context: Wristwatch***

Prior to World War I, the term “watch” nearly always applied to a pocket watch. The wristwatch had been invented by the beginning of the twentieth century but was only produced for military use. The U.S. Army issued wristwatches as standard military equipment after the Boer War in Africa (1899–1902). Robert H. Ingersoll and Waterbury Clock Company manufactured watches during World War I. They produced a modified Ingersoll ladies Midget model pocket watch into military-styled wristwatch with luminous hands and numbers for night visibility. Known as “Radiolite,” this compound of radium and zinc was first manufactured in their European branch in 1914. The new military wristwatch also allowed soldiers to synchronize battle movements. During World War I, the new luminance feature was a large success in America, and by 1918, 85 percent of Ingersoll watches had Radiolite dials. World War I bolstered the country’s interest in wristwatches. In addition to wristwatches, the company’s clock crystal shop in Waterbury produced 72,000 pocket watch crystals per day during the war.

The 1920s represented a shift in wristwatch fashion; the American public now preferred elegance, high design, and small size. The Swiss mastered the design of timepieces and appropriated the world of watch fashion as their own. American watch manufacturers had to confront the decision of financing new production lines or going out of business. The number of

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

Swiss watch movements doubled between 1923 and 1928. After the stock market crash in 1929, the company was unable to fulfill its manufacturing contracts to Ingersoll sales branches in England and Ireland. Waterbury Clock endured a significant loss in sales during the early years of the Great Depression. The Company had filed for receivership in August 1932, but within two weeks, Thomas Ewing, Jr. made an offer to purchase \$500,000 of the company's preferred stock. However, under the new ownership the company had largely ended its clock production line in 1933.

Waterbury Clock Company entered into a contract with the Walt Disney Enterprises to manufacture watches featuring Disney characters, which would save the company from receivership during the Great Depression. The company unveiled the Mickey Mouse wristwatch under the Ingersoll brand name at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933. The popularity of the Mickey Mouse watch not only swept across the country but also allowed Waterbury Clock Company to reinstate hundreds of their former workers and employing new workers. The first Mickey Mouse products included a pocket watch and fob, a wristwatch with round dial, and an alarm clock. By 1936, the Mickey Mouse watch had reportedly become the official timekeeper of two million children. During this period, the company introduced contemporary, streamlined wristwatch styles. In 1937, the company released the inexpensive Ingersoll "Rist Arch," a square dialed wristwatch. A new line of higher priced, seven-jeweled Ingersoll watches were also introduced in the new "Kelton" line. The company also engaged in a major trade and consumer advertising campaign in the 1930s. Waterbury Clock Company introduced the first Ingersoll wristwatch with a sweep second hand in 1940, which they billed as "The New All... Purpose Watch."

The company persevered during the Great Depression, and from 1938 to 1942, they sold 1.6 million Ingersoll watches per year. After the war in Europe began, the company manufactured bomb fuses for the British government. The company would enter a new era of Norwegian ownership in February 1941, when Thomas Fredrik Olsen purchased 75,556 shares for \$500,000 which gave majority control to Olsen who became chairman of the Waterbury Clock Company Board. Other Norwegian board members included Joakim Lehmkuhl, an electrical engineer and industrialist, and Bernt Balchen, an aviator and aircraft engineer. Lehmkuhl chaired the company's executive committee.

A native of Norway, Olsen owned and operated Fred Olsen Shipping Co. On the day Germany invaded Norway in April 1940, Olsen joined Joakim Lehmkuhl with their families and fled the country for Great Britain and then to the United States. Lehmkuhl was a Norwegian electrical engineer and chairman of the country's leading independent newspaper. After arriving in the United States in June, Olsen and Lehmkuhl planned to assist with establishing a Norwegian shipping center in New York. Eager to assist with in war effort the two men identified the Waterbury Clock Company as a prospect because the clock company was producing bomb fuses for the British government.

After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Waterbury Clock Company petitioned the U.S. government to build a new plant. Upon the government's approval in early April 1942, construction began on a 120,000-sq ft facility on Park Road Extension in the town of Middlebury which is extant at its original location. The plant was specifically designed for

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

the high-volume production of precision timers. More than 700 workers completed the new facility within 88 days on a 700-ft elevation hill known as “Ingersoll Hill.” The building had a unique strategic feature wherein it could be completely flooded and covered with water. Enemy planes would be unable to detect the building as it blended in with the Middlebury hills. The company ceased all civilian products and concentrated on products such as gyroscopes and bomb timing devices to assist the war effort. Through a government contract, the only clocks the company produced were 300,000 government-mandated alarm clocks to ensure that defense workers arrived at their jobs on time. As in World War I, women again supplied the assembly line labor for the company.

The company’s most important defense products were mechanically timed artillery and anti-aircraft fuses, which featured small click movements, or timers. Their new precision products also included other aircraft instruments such as turn-and-bank indicators and gunsight units. The company’s prodigious manufacturing capabilities produced 25,000 fuses per day, which was more efficient and larger in volume than any other manufacturer. In August 1943, the Waterbury Clock Company received Army-Navy “E” Award for excellence in war production.

In December 1943, the company’s shareholders changed the name to The United States Time Corporation (U.S. Time) which absorbed the Waterbury Clock Company and Manufacturers of Ingersoll. The company produced more mechanical fuses for the British and U.S. governments than any other company during the war. Their second strategic defense product was the gyro, a spinning wheel with a fixed center of gravity that was highly effective in airborne antennas. The first U.S. aircraft carrier, the Yorktown, was equipped with gun sights employing gyros. In June 1945, the company began producing the first prototype parts for peacetime alarm clocks in a factory space in Little Rock, Arkansas. U.S. Time’s fuses were sent the Arkansas Ordnance Plant to be loaded onto bombs and missiles.

***Timex***

U.S. Time officially trademarked the “Timex” name brand in October 1945. Olsen’s coined portmanteau was derived from combining the brand names of *Time* magazine and *Kleenex*.<sup>30</sup> Following World War II, Olsen returned to Norway and Lehmkuhl assumed leadership of the company. Only one-half dozen U.S. watch manufacturers remained in operation during the post-war period. Three of the domestic watch companies made their own jeweled movements and assembled finished watches. The Hamilton Watch Company of New York and Benrus Watch Company of Connecticut had used Swiss movements since the 1920s. Lehmkuhl, in an effort to regain the company’s dominance in the market, assembled a group of engineers to research and develop a new watch - specifically, a simply designed watch with a movement that could be mostly fabricated by machines. The goal was to manufacture an affordable yet durable watch.

U.S. Time struggled financially because of falling sales in the post-war period. By May 1950, the company’s future was bolstered with a \$1million contract with the Polaroid Corporation to manufacture their new line of Polaroid Land cameras. The cameras were first manufactured at

<sup>30</sup> Tully, Shawn, “Norway’s most radical billionaire, *Fortune* March 7, 2015, accessed June 26, 2024, <https://fortune.com/2015/03/07/fred-olsen/>.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property

the Middlebury plant and assembled in the Little Rock factory. With the popularity of “instant photography, U.S. Time remained the exclusive manufacturers of Polaroid cameras for the next three decades. Further fiscal relief occurred with the outbreak of the Korean War when the U.S. government awarded several defense contracts to U.S. Time. At the Middlebury plant, the company manufactured aircraft instruments and gyroscopes. Mechanical time fuses and electronic proximity fuses were manufactured in their Little Rock factory. The U.S. Time Corporation also manufactured a magnetic compass for the Sperry Corporation which received the government’s highest ratings for quality control and new business. Other precision instruments manufactured by U.S. Time included a flight directory for Sperry, a rate gyro for General Electric, and a goniometer for RCA (Radio Corporation of America).<sup>31</sup> U.S. Time was the largest domestic manufacturer of mechanical time fuses and precision timing devices during the Korean War.

During the 1950s, the U.S. Time Corporation had a full line of Disney-character timepieces and other non-Disney novelty designs that included television characters and famous sports personalities. The company’s financial turnaround is also credited with the popularity of their new premium line, the “Timex,” which had been introduced in 1950. The technology of the Timex’s simple movement design led to the watch’s success. The Timex watch featured new engineering innovation consisting of a “V-Conic” escapement, a cone-shaped constantly oscillating balance shaft turned within friction-reducing and hard “Armoralloy” bearings. The company marketed the watch’s shock-proof and durable qualities whereas the Swiss watches and the jeweled American watches made on the Swiss model were promoted for their beauty and accuracy.

U.S. Time sold Timex watches through the 20,000 retailers that carried their Ingersoll line, which included variety, drug, and tobacco stores. Timex watches were marketed in major national publications and featured endorsements by prominent sports figures. These early 1950s print advertisements served as the precursor to the Timex “torture test” demonstrations later featured on network television. The company ceased print advertising in 1956 to increase sales in large cities. By this time, the watchmaker was concerned the U.S. government might reduce the tariff on imported watches. To reach a broader demographic, U.S. Time sponsored the “Steve Allen Show,” a popular variety show on the NBC network. John Cameron Swayze, a former news commentator, was hired as the Timex spokesman appearing on the show’s “torture test” commercials to demonstrate the watch’s durability. For more than two decades, Swayze ended each commercial with the slogan “Takes a licking and keeps on ticking.” The Timex commercials and advertising slogan became part of American pop culture during the mid-twentieth century

In 1955, the company sold 2.5 million Timex watches in the United States. The workforce reached 4,000 with 1,300 workers in the 1942 bomb-proof plant in Middlebury, which is extant at 199 Park Road Ext. Other plants were in Abilene, Texas, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Toronto, Canada. Lehmkuhl continued to advance automation in manufacturing with a new process

---

<sup>31</sup> A goniometer is a device for measuring angles.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

designed by U.S. Time toolmakers involving their own automated production equipment. The company began marketing its first women's brand, the Timex Cavatina, in November 1959.

During the early Cold War period, U.S. Time with the approval of the government produced and sold the world's smallest, lightest, and most rugged gyroscope. The new "rate gyroscope" was essential for guided "robot" planes, fighting ships, and missiles. In 1956, a research and development operation for the gyroscope was established by the company in Irvington-on-Hudson, New York. By late 1959, every fourth watch sold in the United States was a Timex. In the 1960s, U.S. Time continued to transform the watch industry and dominated the low-to-medium priced watch market in the United States and Europe. The company introduced new watch technologies, expanded their worldwide factories and research labs, and sponsored several popular television shows.

U.S. Time acquired the German company Durowe-Laco in 1958 and obtained electric watch technology. The company introduced their line of electric-movement watches within three years. In the early 1960s, U.S. time employed nearly 5,000 workers in the Middlebury headquarters plant and plants in Little Rock, Abilene, Puerto Rico, Toronto, England, Scotland, West Germany, and France. Most of the of the watch parts needed in the company's American and European assembly plans were manufactured in the Middlebury plant, which was expanded in the 1960s and 1970s. U.S. Time also ran assembly lines for all watch lines in Middlebury, By 1966, Timex electric watches became the world's best-selling watch. The company officially changed its name to Timex Corporation on July 1, 1969. In the early 1970s, Timex was the largest employer in Arkansas with 5,000 employees working in three plants in Little Rock and one in Hot Springs.<sup>32</sup>

When Lehmkuhl retired in 1973, Fred. Olsen, son of Thomas Olsen, selected Martin Siem as the new president of the company. In addition to corporate management changes, the introduction of digital technology presented a challenge for the quartz watch maker. The watch dial was replaced with new display technologies, LCD (liquid crystal display) and LED (light emitting diode). Timex experimented with LCD technology while its competitors opted for LED technology. The first Timex LCD watch was sold in 1974. In the following year, Robert Weltzien became the new president of Timex. Under Weltzian's leadership, the company's corporate structure was organized around product lines instead of function responsibilities. Three operating groups were formed. The Time Group included electrometrical watches and their factories. Product derived from digital and quartz technology were in the Electronics Group. The Instruments Group covered aircraft instruments, gyros, and fuses.

Timex and other watch making companies were uncertain of the future of the two-function (hours and minutes) digital watch market. New developments in LCD watches included the addition of calendar, chronograph, alarms, calculators and double time reading. By 1975, integrated circuits changed the wristwatch into a multi-functioning devise. Timex continued to dominate the industry and had 30,000 employees in eight countries in the mid-1970s. However, the success of the low-cost watch industry would be challenged by watch assemblers in Hong Kong. With their low wages and simplified products, Hong Kong's watch makers flooded the

---

<sup>32</sup> Shuster, William George, "Timex ends 56 years of watchmaking in the U.S."

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property

U.S. market. Only three American watch companies remained at this time: Timex, Texas Instruments, and Fairchild.

After Timex lost its manufacturing prominence in the late 1970s, the company diversified its products to include a 35-millimeter camera, electronic clocks, computers, and home health care monitoring products. The company first purchased General Electric's Telechron clock and timer division in 1979. Fred. Olsen succeeded Weitzman as chairperson after a first-quarter loss of \$10 million in 1980. Weizman's diversification strategy ultimately failed and led significant loss in sales. The company sold off assets and closed down facilities in the early 1980s. However, Timex would again recover from financial instability beginning in 1984 with its decision to become self-sufficient in quartz analog watches. The company introduced the Ironman Triathlon watch, which became the world's largest-selling sports watch in the post-mechanical watch era.

Timex continued to introduce new watch models and entered into the fashion market in the 1990s. The company introduced its innovative Indiglo night-light feature in 1993. This successful new technology became a standard feature on all digital and analog Timex watches. The Timex Data Link watch, released in 1994, combined sophisticated computer technology and timekeeping that offered the convenience of a personal organizer and the performance of a multi-function sport timekeeping device. Microsoft Corporation created the software for the first watch capable of wireless downloading of data from a computer to the Data Link watch. Other watches included the Expedition watch line for the outdoor activities and the wrist pager (beepwear) produced by Timex and Motorola. By the end of the 1990s, the Timex Corporation was the last timepiece maker—clock or watch—in Connecticut and the only surviving independent watch manufacturer in the United States.

During this period, Timex considered relocating their corporate headquarters to the South where states in the region had offered attractive incentives to the company.<sup>33</sup> However, instead of shifting operations and 200 jobs to North Carolina, Timex ultimately decided to keep their world corporate headquarters in Connecticut. In June 1993, as part of continuing efforts to retain and attract businesses, the State agreed to provide the company with a \$1 million grant to develop a site for its new headquarters.<sup>34</sup> Governor Lowell P. Wicker, Jr. recognized the importance of retaining jobs and preserving Connecticut's clockmaking and watchmaking history at a press conference held for the announcement.<sup>35</sup> The governor further acknowledged how important the people of Timex have been to the state. Timex committed to stay in Connecticut for at least 10 years and build a new facility in Middlebury under the terms of the grant agreement with the Department of Economic Development. Although a site for the new headquarters had not been selected at that time, Timex initially retained Sir Norman Foster and Partners (1992-1999), an internationally renowned firm, to design their new headquarters building.<sup>36</sup> The company

<sup>33</sup> Hanley, Christine, "Timex decides to keep ticking in Connecticut," *Hartford Courant*, June 3, 1993, D1,D7, accessed July 1, 2024, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/175578307/>.

<sup>34</sup> Hanley, Christine, "Timex decides to keep ticking in Connecticut."

<sup>35</sup> Hanley, Christine, "Timex decides to keep ticking in Connecticut."

<sup>36</sup> "The Hyatt Foundation, "Headquarters for Timex, Connecticut, USA." *Sir Norman Foster – The Pritzker Architecture Prize 1999*, p. 46, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://usmodernist.org/nfoster-pritzker.pdf>; Note, this

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

estimated a new building would cost between \$5 to \$10 million. Despite losing the one-million-dollar grant from the State in December 1994, Timex remained committed to a new headquarters in Middlebury.<sup>37</sup>

Timex had announced the closure of their last manufacturing plant in Little Rock in the month prior to opening their new headquarters. The Little Rock factory was the last U.S. plant to produce watch parts and make cases for a popular watch brand.<sup>38</sup> In 2000, the plant produced parts and cases for 22 million watches, roughly 80% of Timex's annual production, that were shipped to the company's large watchmaking facility in the Philippines for assembly.<sup>39</sup> Timex also closed its distribution center in Shelton, Connecticut. The distribution operations were relocated to North Little Rock, where the company operated a watch repair center.

In October 1997, Timex purchased 150 acres of land for the future site of their new corporate headquarters on Christian Road in Middlebury.<sup>40</sup> The company paid the IBM Corporation more than \$2 million for the property, which was part of a larger 900-acre tract owned by IBM.<sup>41</sup> Timex envisioned a 78,000-sq ft office building for roughly 300 workers that would not house any manufacturing operations. Timex selected the architectural firm Fletcher Thompson, Inc., for the new Timex Corporate Headquarters. FIP Construction of Farmington, Connecticut, was the general contractor for the project.<sup>42</sup> The company's projected completion date for new building was 2000. However, the new corporate headquarters would not be completed until July 2001. The company's 275 employees from the plant on Park Road in Middlebury began working in the new \$23 million Timex Corporate Headquarters building on July 20, 2001.<sup>43</sup> In the same year, the company opened The Timexpo Museum in Waterbury (closed in 2015), which highlighted the connections between Waterbury and Timex's early corporate history.

Within the period of significance beginning in 2001, Timex commanded roughly a third of the U.S. watch market in units sold while the Casio and Seiko companies each held only 6% of the

---

was an unbuilt project. Middlebury Save Historic Middlebury, Inc. contacted Foster + Partners to inquire about the 1993 designs. Sir Norman Foster reviewed the Timex website and other photos and conclusively stated the 2001 Timex Headquarters is not a Norman Foster/company design.

<sup>37</sup> *Record Journal*, "Timex loses grant, but stays," *Record-Journal* (Meriden, CT) Tue, December 20, 1994, accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/677335466/>.

<sup>38</sup> Shuster, William George, "Timex ends 56 years of watchmaking in the U.S.," JCK, June 22, 2001, accessed October 22, 2024, <https://www.jckonline.com/editorial-article/timex-ends-56-years-of-watchmaking-in-the-us/#:~:text=Until%20last%20year%2C%20Timex's%20Little%20Rock%20factory%2C,Timex's%20watch%20assembly%20facilities%20in%20the%20Philippines.>

<sup>39</sup> Shuster, William George, "Timex ends 56 years of watchmaking in the U.S."

<sup>40</sup> *The Day*, "Timex Buys Land for headquarters Complex," October 12, 1997, E8, accessed June 11, 2024, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/971758420/?match=1&terms=Timex>.

<sup>41</sup> *The Day*, "Timex Buys Land for headquarters Complex."

<sup>42</sup> FIP Construction, "Timex," 2024, accessed October 22, 2024, <https://www.fipconstruction.com/portfolio/commercial-industrial/timex>.

<sup>43</sup> Abate, C.J., "Timex keeps on ticking with new headquarters," *The Middletown Press* July 22, 2001, accessed on June 12, 2024, <https://www.middletownpress.com/news/article/Timex-keeps-on-ticking-with-new-headquarters-11905534.php>.



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

market.<sup>44</sup> Timex employed approximately 7,500 people on four continents at the turn of the twenty-first century with its new headquarters in Middlebury and facilities in Manaus, Brazil; Besancon, France; Pforzheim, Germany; Cebu, Philippines; People's Republic of China; Jerusalem, Israel; and Delhi, India. Timex moved all production from the United States to Timex facilities in the Philippines (TMX Philippines Incorporated) at their assembly line in Manila and factory in Cebu.

During the early- to mid-2000s, Timex expanded their collections by manufacturing new fashion and luxury watch collections. The company entered a new period of brand acquisition and introduction, and licensing partnerships. For Versace, the international fashion design house, a new watch division Vertime was launched in 2004.<sup>45</sup> Timex has since designed and created precision luxury timepieces for Versace. Timex expanded in 2007 when they established Sequel in Zug, Switzerland, which began an exclusive license for Guess and GC Watches. In the same year, Timex signed a license agreement with Salvatore Ferragamo, an Italian luxury goods company, and purchased the Giorgio Galli Design Lab. Based in Milan, Italy, designer Giorgio Galli's design studio was established as an internationally recognized leader in the field of modern timekeeping and jewelry design.<sup>46</sup> The Giorgio Galli Design Lab (founded in 1994) offered high quality services in watch design, corporate identity, and industrial and product design.<sup>47</sup>

Timex Corporation became Timex Group USA after it was acquired by Timex Group T.V. in 2008. By this time, the Timex Group was the parent firm or licensee for Timex, Valentino, Salvatore Ferragamo, Versace, Callanen International (Nautica, Mark Eckô), and Sequel International (Guess, Guess Collection [GC]).<sup>48</sup> With Giorgio Galli as the Founder & Chief Creative Director, the Timex Group companies have been producing watches for several well-known international brands, which in 2024, include Timex, Nautica, Guess, GC, Ferragamo, Versace, Ted Baker, Furla, Missoni, Adidas, Philipp Plein, and Plein Sport.<sup>49</sup> Galli Design Lab's capabilities continue to range from visual identity to award-winning watch and industrial design.<sup>50</sup> The company remains successful through collaborations, future-forward design, and reissues of watches from their archives.<sup>51</sup>

---

<sup>44</sup> Shuster, William George, "Timex ends 56 years of watchmaking in the U.S.," JCK, June 22, 2001, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://www.jckonline.com/editorial-article/timex-ends-56-years-of-watchmaking-in-the-us/#:~:text=Until%20last%20year%2C%20Timex's%20Little%20Rock%20factory%2C,Timex's%20watch%20assembly%20facilities%20in%20the%20Philippines.>

<sup>45</sup> Timex Group, "Timex Group," 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timexgroup.com/>.

<sup>46</sup> Timex Group, "Watchmaking," 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timexgroup.com/watchmaking/>.

<sup>47</sup> Giorgio Galli Design Lab, "Giorgio Galli," 2023, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://www.gallidesign.com/about/>.

<sup>48</sup> Shuster, William George, "Watch Notes From BaselWorld 2008," JCK, April 7, 2008, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://www.jckonline.com/editorial-article/watch-notes-from-baselworld-2008/>.

<sup>49</sup> Timex Group, "Timex Group," 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timexgroup.com/>.

<sup>50</sup> Timex Group, "Watchmaking," 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timexgroup.com/watchmaking/>.

<sup>51</sup> Timex Group, "About Timex," 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timex.com/pages/about-us?srsltid=AfmBOoSCS8jDJuJUBsJj5AXozEwntvemto1-9w63tQYF-r3IU6jJPeF>

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

Within the period of significance in 2004, Timex advanced as a pioneer and technological innovator with the introduction of their early smartwatch technology for the “Microsoft Spot Timex.”<sup>52</sup> Timex integrated Microsoft’s Small Personal Object Technology (SPOT) platform to create a new type of watch that received and displayed information such as weather updates, news headlines and calendar alerts via FM radio signals. In the mid-2010s, with improvements in smartphone technology and watch design, the modern smartwatch had emerged which received data from a smartphone. Timex launched its first smartwatch, “Guess Connect,” in 2015. The company successfully designed a smartwatch combining fashion, technology, and watchmaking. The watchmaker further introduced the Intelligent Quartz platform which brought connected technology to an analog dial. Timex has been at the forefront of advancing smartwatch technology and design since introducing digital watch technology in the 1990s.

Within the period of significance in 2019, Timex returned the craft of hand-assembled watchmaking on their 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the American Documents® collection.<sup>53</sup> This marked the return of traditional watchmaking to Middlebury and the American-made watch. The collection merges American ingenuity, materials, and craftsmanship with the European precision of a Swiss quartz movement.<sup>54</sup> To commemorate their corporate legacy and history of watchmaking in Connecticut, the watch has an “Aged Waterbury Brass” case back coin and crown insert to honor the original stamped brass clocks first manufactured in 1854. This limited-edition watch collection was made in a temporary assembly area at Timex headquarters.

Timex’s “Smart Watch” collection in the early 2020s offered increased accuracy and functionality for continuous monitoring of an individual’s activity and sleep tracking to meet their health and fitness goals.<sup>55</sup> Designed for a busy lifestyle, their smartwatches incorporate such features as a customizable display, on board GPS for tracking runs, optical heart rate sensor, notifications, and excellent battery life. The Timex “Smart Watch” also represents the company’s enduring commitment to manufacturing a well-designed, affordable watch. Timex also designed environmentally friendly watches and launched a watch recycling initiative during the early twenty-first century.<sup>56</sup> The company utilizes upcycled and natural materials with battery-free movements in their planet-friendly watches. Their sustainable watch collection includes Expedition Solar Watches with solar-powered movements. The Automatic Movement watches with “self-winding” movements do not have a battery and use the natural movement of the wrist as a power source. The company’s goal is to have 50% sustainability sourced watches by 2026.

Fred. Olsen (1929–) was the chairman and majority owner of Timex from 1980 to 2020. Fred. Olsen is a designer, inventor, environmentalist, and successful entrepreneur who has made considerable contributions on a global scale. As a designer and innovator, Olsen made significant contributions to Timex’s modern watch design with the highly successful Timex Ironman

---

<sup>52</sup> Timex Group, “Timex Group,” 2024.

<sup>53</sup> Timex Group, “American Documents®,” 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timex.com/pages/search-results?q=american+documents>.

<sup>54</sup> Timex Group, “American Documents®,” 2024.

<sup>55</sup> Timex Group, “Smart Watches,” 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timex.com/collections/smartwatches?page=1#product-6907541225555-32491695177811>.

<sup>56</sup> Timex Group, “Sustainability,” 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timex.com/pages/sustainability>.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

Triathlon watch line, the Indiglo night-light technology, and the “smart watch” datalink partnership. When Olsen assumed leadership, Timex's workforce had significantly declined from 30,000 to 6,000 between 1979 and 1983.<sup>57</sup> The company lost \$120 million in 1984.<sup>58</sup> Committed to saving Timex from financial ruin, Olsen began spending every other week in Connecticut.<sup>59</sup> Olsen steered Timex through tough economic periods, changes in the watch technology, and increased market competition. His innovative watch designs not only saved the company, but advanced Timex’s position as a global leader in watch manufacturing. As an avid environmentalist highly concerned with global warming, Olsen also had a significant role in the sustainable design of the Timex Corporate Headquarters.<sup>60</sup>

At the age of 26 in 1955, Olsen became the heir of a Norwegian shipping empire co-founded by his great-grandfather and named for his great-grand uncle Fred Olsen.<sup>61</sup> The early corporate legacy of the vast Olsen companies dates to the mid-nineteenth century. Olsen diversified the family businesses in a new direction, first driving the North Sea oil revolution in the late 1960s.<sup>62</sup> His company’s rig made the first discovery in Ekofisk, one of the largest deepwater oilfields ever developed. An early and leading wind power advocate, Olsen established Fred. Olsen Renewables in 1996.<sup>63</sup> The company expanded their commitment to renewable energy by forming other related wind energy companies and over the last 25 years has become a global leader in offshore wind development.<sup>64</sup> In 2009, a solar array was installed at the Timex Corporate Headquarters, which was the largest in the state at that time. Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell sent a formal letter of appreciation to Timex upon completion of the new solar array. The governor commended Timex for their dedication to social responsibility through clean energy resources and hoped it would serve as a model for other corporations in the state and region.<sup>65</sup> In August 2016, Fred. Olsen Windcarrier completed the installation of the first operating commercial offshore wind farm in the United States, the Block Island Wind Farm 3.8 miles from Block Island, Rhode Island.<sup>66</sup> Olsen also owns Norway’s largest business newspaper publisher.

Timex sold their corporate headquarters building and 93 acres of land to private developers for \$7.5 million in October 2023.<sup>67</sup> The company entered a lease with the new owners and continues to operate their world corporate headquarters from the Middlebury location. Timex is expected to

<sup>57</sup> Tully, Shawn. “Norway’s most radical billionaire.” *Fortune* 7, March 2015, accessed July 12, 2024, <https://fortune.com/2015/03/07/fred-olsen/>.

<sup>58</sup> Tully, Shawn. “Norway’s most radical billionaire.”

<sup>59</sup> Tully, Shawn. “Norway’s most radical billionaire.”

<sup>60</sup> Disbrow, Douglas (principal architect, Timex Corporate Headquarters), in discussion with author. July 12, 2024.

<sup>61</sup> Tully, Shawn. “Norway’s most radical billionaire.”

<sup>62</sup> Tully, Shawn. “Norway’s most radical billionaire.”

<sup>63</sup> Fred. Olsen Seawind, “Our Legacy,” 2024, accessed July 12, 2024, <https://fredolsenseawind.com/legacy/>.

<sup>64</sup> Fred. Olsen Seawind, “About Fred. Olsen Seawind” accessed July 12, 2024, <https://fredolsenseawind.com/about/>.

<sup>65</sup> Rell, M. Jodi. Letter to Timex Group USA, February 5, 2009, Connecticut Digital Archive, <https://ctdigitalarchive.org/node/3429371?search=timex>.

<sup>66</sup> Fred. Olsen Windcarrier, “Block Island,” accessed July 12, 2024, <https://windcarrier.com/track-record/case-studies/block-island/>.

<sup>67</sup> Turmelle, Luther, “Timex sells Connecticut headquarters, considering future in home state,” *CTInsider*, October 3, 2023, accessed June 29, 2024, <https://www.ctinsider.com/business/article/timex-group-sells-ct-headquarters-18394798.php>.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

end their lease and have plans to relocate to an office building in Shelton, Connecticut, at the end of 2024.<sup>68</sup>

Few American companies have remained consistently in business for over 170 years. At its height, Timex was the largest-selling watch maker in the United States. The company prevailed over the technological and competitive challenges in the consumer retail sector of the 1970s by designing affordable digital watches. By the 1990s, Timex was the only surviving independent watch manufacturer in the United States. Throughout 170-year corporate lineage—Waterbury Clock, Waterbury Watch, Robert H. Ingersoll & Brothers, and U.S. Time—Timex has continued to manufacture affordable, high-quality clocks and watches. According to Fred. Olsen, each of these companies were important innovators of their day, having similar success that Timex has known since the 1950s.<sup>69</sup> Timex and its predecessors have spanned the mass-produced epoch of American clock and watch making as well as endured through the waves of American industrial and economic history.<sup>70</sup>

### Criterion C: Architecture

Nestled in the Middlebury hills, the design for the Timex World Headquarters was inspired by an oval glacial ridge or drumlin on the site. The architectural/engineering firm Fletcher Thompson, Inc., in collaboration with Fred. Olsen, chairperson of Timex, envisioned an expansive, shallow barrel vault that echoed the crest of the landform.<sup>71</sup> The headquarters building is the result of an investigation between Timex and Fletcher Thompson, Inc., which had as its core function the establishment of strategic links between the design response and both the short- and long-term business goals of Timex and its customers.<sup>72</sup> According to Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for the project, the architectural approach for the Timex Corporate Headquarters changed the paradigm of how buildings can be more than a "container" of a company.<sup>73</sup> Disbrow further notes how the building structure itself echoes and reinforces the Timex brand, creating a rich work environment that drives collaborative behavior and fosters limitless creativity and growth. The corporate headquarters campus celebrates its surroundings through an active engagement of natural phenomena.<sup>74</sup> Embedded in place, the building expresses a symbiotic relationship with all aspects of its setting. The landscape architecture and building generate a sense of community and connection to the natural environment through integrated design.

---

<sup>68</sup> Soule, Alexander, "Timex moves to Shelton office, stays in Connecticut after selling Middlebury headquarters," CTInsider, July 12, 2024, accessed July 15, 2024, <https://www.ctinsider.com/business/article/timex-shelton-middlebury-ct-headquarters-19569283.php>.

<sup>69</sup> Olsen, Fred, "Introduction," in Kathleen McDermott, *Timex: A Company and Its Community, 1854-199* n.p.: Timex Corporation, 1998), n.p.

<sup>70</sup> Olsen, Fred, "Introduction," in Kathleen McDermott, *Timex: A Company and Its Community, 1854-1998*.

<sup>71</sup> Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, in conversation with the author provided insight on the initial concept for the building's design and the influence of Fred. Olsen.

<sup>72</sup> Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, "Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation."

<sup>73</sup> Disbrow, Douglas. Personal communication with author via email, July 20, 2024.

<sup>74</sup> Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, "Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation."

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

Featured in *Architecture* magazine in 2005, the headquarters building was referred to as “The New-Age Corporate Citadel.”<sup>75</sup>

Disbrow’s innovative use of glass, location on a promontory and not visible from the road, and uniform integration into the landscape in the design of the Timex Corporate Headquarters is evocative of Philip Johnson’s The Glass House (1945-1949) in New Canaan, Connecticut. Johnson remarked on his design, “... the only house in the world where you can see the sunset and the moonrise at the same time, standing in the same place.”<sup>76</sup> The main office floor of the Timex Corporate Headquarters with its glass window walls and unobstructed 360-degree views achieves a similar effect with the ability to track daylight throughout the work day.

The Timex Corporate Headquarters incorporates fully sustainable environments that address a series of interrelated issues inclusive of social, cultural, psychological, technical, and ecological.<sup>77</sup> Fletcher Thompson, Inc., included the following sustainability criteria in their design: low energy/high performance; replenishable sources; recycling; embodied energy; long life, loose fit; total life-cycle costing, embedded in place; access and urban context, health and happiness; and community and connection. These issues are addressed through the building’s design, sustainable materials, ceiling and lighting control systems, water recycling system work place amenities. The design minimizes dependence on fossil-fuel-derived energy and maximizes the use of non-depletable ambient energies.

Office design trends have changed since the post-World War II era. In the 1980s and 1990s, offices were laid out with modular offices, or cubicles, for the purpose of employee privacy and productivity.<sup>78</sup> The introduction of computer work stations during this period corresponded with the widespread embracement of the semi-enclosed workspace. By September 2001, 58 percent of office workers were estimated to have worked in an open office.<sup>79</sup> Advances in CAD and computer aided metal-forming technics made other ceiling configurations such as vaults and domes more feasible. As the open-office concept gained momentum for companies at the turn of the twenty-first century, designers had to understand the types of work to be performed in a space while assessing the firm’s work style and corporate culture.<sup>80</sup> Further, open plan offices presented challenges for speech privacy and acoustical controls which were addressed through variations in ceiling scale, shape and trim, and using materials that could be morphed into three-dimensional forms.<sup>81</sup> Perforated metal ceilings for office acoustical control gained popularity.<sup>82</sup> Disbrow remarked in 2001 on the Timex Corporate Headquarters main floor was designed to

---

<sup>75</sup> *Architecture*, “A New Age of Officing: Recent Office Buildings Bode Well for Worker Health—and the Planet” (New York: VNU Business Media, Inc., 2005 [May]), 64.

<sup>76</sup> Natural Trust for Historic Preservation, “The Glass House,” accessed July 23, 2024, <https://savingplaces.org/places/glass-house>.

<sup>77</sup> Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, “Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation.”

<sup>78</sup> Eubanks, Caroline, “Office Design Trends Through the Decades,” *Architectural Digest*, September 28, 2023, accessed July 26, 2024, <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/office-design-trends-through-the-decades>.

<sup>79</sup> Chusid, Michael, “Public Musings on Acoustical Privacy,” *Architectural Record*, September 2001, p. 163.

<sup>80</sup> Chusid, Michael, “Public Musings on Acoustical Privacy,” p.170.

<sup>81</sup> Chusid, Michael, “Public Musings on Acoustical Privacy,” p.168.

<sup>82</sup> Chusid, Michael, “Public Musings on Acoustical Privacy.”

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

support collaboration and teaming in a room that “has a hushed but vibrant quality, like the main reading room of the New York Public Library.”<sup>83</sup>

Office building design in the millennium promoted a new attitude toward the knowledge of the worker by concentrating on human need.<sup>84</sup> Architects focused on daylight, fresh air, elbowroom, and on the relationship with the outdoors. The designs appealed to early twenty-first-century philosophies of high-performance organizations, curbing the corporate production ethos with the means for stress reduction based on exercise, socializing, and interacting with nature.<sup>85</sup> Designed contemporary workplaces incorporate cues from the natural aspects of their sites, which may include proximity to forest or farmland, an engineering issue related to swampland, or an urban pocket park. The most effective of the new office buildings capture the sensory and moral climate of a new age of “officing” whether they were speculative, built-to-suit, or a new interpretation on the corporate headquarters.<sup>86</sup> The new office ethic of bright, airy, and roomy is expressed in the Timex World Headquarters building. Health and happiness are conveyed by empowering the workforce the ability to adjust their environments, thus yielding increased productivity and personal satisfaction. Timex is one of the earlier companies to adopt the open-office concept, which has since become the prevalent office configuration today.

To support innovation and to provide a long-term, flexible solution, the architectural approach for the building challenged the traditional role of basic building components.<sup>87</sup> All aspects of the technologically “smart” building envelope contribute to the quality of the work environment by providing an integrated solution for creating a variety of work settings. Fletcher Thompson, Inc., viewed their technologically focused design as analogous to a biological entity wherein the Timex workforce is able to progress in response to both internal and external forces.<sup>88</sup>

The Timex Corporate Headquarters is an early example of “green building” and integrates processes that are environmentally responsible and resource efficient. The green building movement began in the 1970s during the national energy crisis. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) was established in 1993 and included a group of architects and engineers seeking methods to encourage sustainable construction techniques. The USBC adopted the first version of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system in August 1998, which coincided with the design for the Timex Corporate Headquarters. As defined by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, “green building” is the practice of (1) increasing the efficiency of both the building and site in the use of energy, water, and materials and (2) reducing building impacts on human health and environment through better siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal—the complete building life

---

<sup>83</sup>Chusid, Michael, “Public Musings on Acoustical Privacy,” *Architectural Record*, September 2001, p. 172,

<sup>84</sup> Knowledge workers are professionals who generate value for the organization with their expertise, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills.

<sup>85</sup> *Architecture*, “A New Age of Officing,” 64.

<sup>86</sup> *Architecture*, “A New Age of Officing,” 64.

<sup>87</sup> Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, “Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation.”

<sup>88</sup> Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for the Timex Corporate Headquarters, “Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation.”

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property

cycle.<sup>89</sup> Though the design integrates “green building” sustainable practices, the Timex Headquarters is not LEED certified.

In 2024, Docomomo US is exploring the impact of suburban corporate architecture and corporate campuses on the style, development, and furthering of Modern architecture in the United States.<sup>90</sup> However, existing scholarly evaluations on architecture and historic resources of the recent past focus on the mid-to-late twentieth century and not the twenty-first century. The rise of suburban corporate campuses in the post-war World War II era have been attributed to the opportunities offered to companies such as land for expansive campuses with large parking lots and tax breaks from local governments.<sup>91</sup> Most notably, companies had an opportunity to rebrand themselves with a new corporate campus featuring innovative designs by leading architects, planners, and landscape architects of the period.<sup>92</sup> In 1961, Interstate 84, was completed through the bucolic southern portion of the town of Middlebury. The new highway further opened suburban and corporate development in Connecticut. Corporate development in Middlebury followed in the 1970s and 1980s.

***Timex Corporate Headquarters Design: Fletcher Thompson, Inc.***

The Timex Corporate Headquarters demonstrates Fletcher Thompson, Inc’s successful implementation of integrated design solutions based on three project goals: transparency, flexibility, and sustainability.<sup>93</sup> The building’s transparency of design created an open community of workers to enhance interaction among employees and departments and support cross-training of employees. All employees work in a single open room—nearly the size of a football field—without walls, partitions, or cubicles. For flexibility, their design accommodated a shift in work culture based on teaming. The sustainability goal was realized as an architecture consonant with the natural world, supported by a selection of environmentally sensitive materials. The desired outcome for the building’s design was to create a facility that enhances behaviors to promote new forms of collaborative activity nourished by the intellectual capital contained within the organization.<sup>94</sup> To support the reinforcement of the Timex brand, both the landscape and building design incorporate experiential events that relate to time telling.

Fletcher Thompson, Inc., implemented several systems in their design. The building’s raised flooring system reduces heating and cooling requirements by providing a pathway for cabling and conduit, thus lessening the need for above ceiling space. The extensive use of glass reduces

---

<sup>89</sup> Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, *The Federal Commitment to Greenbuilding: Experiences and Expectations* (Washington D.C: Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, 2010), n.p.

<sup>90</sup> Waytkus, Liz, “Docomomo US Theme 2024: Corporate Campuses,” Docomomo, December 6, 2023, accessed July 25, 2024, <https://www.docomomo-us.org/news/annual-theme-corporate-campuses>; Docomomo US is a non-profit organization dedicated to the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the modern movement.

<sup>91</sup> Waytkus, Liz, “Docomomo US Theme 2024: Corporate Campuses.”

<sup>92</sup> Waytkus, Liz, “Docomomo US Theme 2024: Corporate Campuses.”

<sup>93</sup> Fletcher Thompson, Inc., “Timex Corporate Headquarters Middlebury, CT,” Internet Archive, assessed June 26, 2024, <https://web.archive.org/web/20070808171341/http://www.fletcherthompson.com/project.aspx?id=38>.

<sup>94</sup> Douglas Disbrow, “Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation World Headquarters, Middlebury, CT.”

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

need for artificial lighting and provides a connection between the facility's interior spaces and the outdoor environment. A unique rainwater collection system cleans water before it enters the storm water management system and also provides audio and visual stimulation to building occupants. The rain ladders represent one of the innovative technologies designed to heighten awareness of a typical building function. Minimal use of permanent partitions allows for broad diffusion of daylight within the building. The reflective lighting and ceiling clouds reduce the heat burden, thus providing a light, open interior environment. Incorporating natural landscape materials preserves site elements and aids in maintaining site conditions.

***Fletcher Thompson, Inc.: Corporate History***

In existence for more than a century, Fletcher Thompson, Inc., now AEPM, International, LLC, is a full-service architecture, engineering, and interior design firm with headquarters in Ansonia, Connecticut.<sup>95</sup> The firm's headquarters had previously operated in Bridgeport, Connecticut, for 92 years. During the period of significance, Fletcher Thompson, Inc., provided professional design services to both private and public sectors of the market. The practice grew through a combination of acquisitions and the opening of new office locations.<sup>96</sup>

Fletcher Thompson, Inc., traces its roots to 1907 when E. Leslie Fletcher founded an industrial engineering company in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Charles L. Thompson joined Fletcher's business two years later. On February 5, 1910, the firm incorporated as the Fletcher Thompson Engineering Company, which became Fletcher Thompson Incorporated in 1914. The practice subsequently expanded their services as an architecture and engineering firm. J. Gerald Phelan, FAIA, PE, an architectural graduate of Pratt Institute, joined the practice in 1916 as a draftsman. By 1931, he had become a stockholder in the firm and Managing Principal. As a principal owner shortly thereafter, Phelan steered the company through the end of the Great Depression and into a period of firm growth and increasing prominence. During its early years, Fletcher Thompson, Inc., was known for creative design, and engineering of industrial and manufacturing buildings.

In 1956, John G. Phelan, PE, joined his father's practice as a field engineer. John G. Phelan would succeed his father as President in April 1970 and hold the position until his retirement in 1998. A strategic reorganization of the firm transpired afterward when James Beaudin, AIA, John C. Oliveto, PE, and Michael S. Marcinek became majority owners of Fletcher Thompson, Inc. Fletcher Thompson, Inc., received the Architectural Firm of the Year award for 1999 from the New Jersey chapter of the AIA. In 2003, Fletcher Thompson, Inc., acquired Rothe-Johnson-Fantacone, LLC (RJF), a 30-person, New Jersey-based, architectural, planning, and interior design firm. Fletcher Thompson, Inc., reorganized under AEPM, International, LLC, in 2008.<sup>97</sup>

---

<sup>95</sup> Corporate history for Fletcher Thompson, Inc., obtained from Fletcher Thompson, Inc., "History," Internet Archive, n.d., accessed June 26, 2024, [http://www.fletcherthompson.com/about\\_history.aspx](http://www.fletcherthompson.com/about_history.aspx).

<sup>97</sup> State of Connecticut, State Properties Review Board Minutes of Meeting Held on January 21, 2021, accessed October 24, 2024, <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/das/state-properties-review-board/agendas-and-meetings/2021/2021-01-21mapp.pdf>.



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

At the time of the firm's 100th anniversary in 2010, the company had six East Coast offices in Shelton and Hartford, Connecticut; Boston, Massachusetts; New York City; Somerset, New Jersey; and Naples, Florida.

***Projects***

At the turn of the twenty-first century, during the period of significance, Fletcher Thompson, Inc., was one of the largest "full-service" architectural and engineering firms in the Northeast distinguished in the health care, education, and corporate sectors. The firm provided professional design services to the private and public sectors of the market for over a century. In 1976, Fletcher Thompson, Inc.'s design for the Down Corning Corporation's headquarters administration building in Midland, Michigan, received an "Office of the Year" Award of Merit distinction by *Administrative Management* magazine.<sup>98</sup> Their design was recognized in the areas of stability, flexibility, habitability, and advancement of the administrative function through new and improved concepts of office design. The most notable feature of the design is the concept of open-landscape office planning which the firm would further expand on with the Timex Corporate Headquarters project.

One of the firm's notable college and university projects is the University of Connecticut Thomas J. Dodd Research Center in Storrs, Connecticut. Completed in 1995, the building won the American School & University Architectural Award Gold Citation and has served as a model for archival, research, and public programming facilities. After their design for the Timex headquarters, Fletcher Thompson, Inc., further advanced their contemporary architecture principles into the twenty-first century with their major focus on sustainability. Example projects include Adelphi University Residence Hall (2003; Long Island, New York) designed by Gerald Dunn; Ocean County College-Technology Center; Sussex County Community College Performing Arts & Allied Health Center; Entergy Nuclear Northeast Generation Support Office Building; and Western Connecticut State University Science Building (2005).

**Douglas Disbrow, lead design architect for Timex Corporate Headquarters**

Douglas Disbrow was a Senior Associate at Fletcher Thompson, Inc., from 2000 to 2004, serving as a design leader for corporate, mixed-use urban, and K-12 projects.<sup>99</sup> As a sustainable design Leader, Disbrow oversaw developing and managing firm-wide continuing education and marketing initiatives focused on "environmental stewardship - by design." Prior to joining Fletcher Thompson, Inc., Disbrow held Senior Designer positions at Tsao & McKown (Brooklyn, New York) and Skidmore Owings & Merrill, and served as a Senior Associate at Roger Ferris + Partners (Westport, Connecticut). Disbrow received Bachelor and Master of Architecture from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. Disbrow also earned an Executive Education Diploma in Media Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Other education diplomas he received from the Center for

<sup>98</sup> Connecticut Architect. "Fletcher Thompson Design Chosen "Office of the Year," September-October 1976, p. 15, <https://usmodernist.org/AIAC/AIAC-1976-09-10.pdf>.

<sup>99</sup> Douglas Disbrow, *Home* [LinkedIn page], accessed June 26, 2024, [https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglas-disbrow-3944aa33?trk=people-guest\\_people\\_search-card](https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglas-disbrow-3944aa33?trk=people-guest_people_search-card).

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property

Advanced Studies in Architecture from The Royal Academy of Art, London, England, and Architectural Association, London, England.

From 2004 to 2009, Disbrow was a principal at the architecture and planning firm The S/L/A/M Collaborative (SLAM), headquartered in Glastonbury, Connecticut. As a principal, he worked on award winning projects, including LEED Gold and LEED Silver facilities and served as studio design leader for firm's Higher Education Studio and Health Care Studio projects. Disbrow was part of the studio leadership team involved in strategic planning. During his tenure at SLAM, he was a co-author and speaker for sustainability focused media. In 2009, Disbrow joined Zero Eleven Design of Gladstone, New Jersey, where he continues to serve as the Managing Principal and Design Director for all projects. He leads transformative projects across various sectors, including corporate, educational, hospitality, and healthcare. Disbrow is a LEED Accredited Professional with a distinguished record in sustainable design, Douglas is highly regarded for his ability to integrate innovative solutions that not only meet client needs but also prioritize environmental stewardship. His leadership in award-winning projects showcases his commitment to excellence and his proficiency in master planning and architectural detailing. His diverse project portfolio has focused on master planning, sustainability, residential design, architectural design, detailing, and design development.

**Jack Curtis + Associates, landscape architecture**

John "Jack" Curtis (1943–2020) was a nationally renowned landscape architect. Born in Alexandria, Virginia, Curtis graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1966 with a B.S. in landscape architecture. Curtis then joined the landscape architecture firm A. E. Bye Associates. As a mentee of Arthur Edwin Bye, Jr. (1919–2001), Curtis was influenced by Bye's subtle designs. Known for his public and private garden designs, Bye advanced the natural over the formal and was one of the first to promote the use of native materials and the restoration of native woodlands.<sup>100</sup> Bye was an early advocate of an ecological approach to design. The Cultural Landscape Foundation characterized Bye's design approach as "...focused on intensifying a site's natural features through subtle design manipulations that emphasized the human experience of natural systems."<sup>101</sup> Through the addition or subtraction of existing natural features and the physical molding of earth, Bye deliberately enhanced the natural form of the landscape."<sup>102</sup>

In the 1970s, Curtis and two colleagues Arthur Selbert and Stanley Hunts, founded the landscape architecture firm Landplan Partnership in Southport, Connecticut.<sup>103</sup> Curtis served as a principal

---

<sup>100</sup> Iovine, Julie V., "Arthur Edwin Bye, Natural Garden Designer, Dies at 82," *The New York Times*, December 17, 2017, Section F, Page 5, accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/17/nyregion/arthur-edwin-bye-natural-garden-designer-dies-at-82.html>.

<sup>101</sup> The Cultural Landscape Foundation "Arthur Edwin Bye, Jr. Biography" February 16, 2024, accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.tclf.org/arthur-edwin-bye-jr-biography>.

<sup>102</sup> The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Arthur Edwin Bye, Jr. Pioneer Information," accessed July 19, 2024. <https://www.tclf.org/pioneer/arthur-edwin-bye-jr>.

<sup>103</sup> The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Remembering Jack Curtis," June 4, 2020, accessed July 19, 2024. <https://www.tclf.org/remembering-jack-curtis>.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

for 12 years. In 1984, Curtis founded his own firm, Jack Curtis + Associates, in Monroe, Fairfield County, Connecticut.<sup>104</sup> The firm's project's included corporate headquarters, city plazas, government facilities, university campuses, and private residences. In 1991, Curtis received an American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Honor Award for the minimalist design for the Cummins Corporate Headquarters in Columbus, Indiana. Curtis had designed grounds for the company's technical center, engine plant, and other projects. Other commissions in Columbus included the improvement and restoration of the Miller Garden (Dan Kiley, 1957) with Xenia Miller in 1999, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2000.

Curtis earned many awards and received the designation of Fellow by the ASLA in 2000. A few of Curtis' notable commissions include General Foods World Headquarters (New York), Metropolitan Museum of Art and UNICEF Plaza (New York City), Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building (Washington, D.C), Knights of Columbus (Connecticut), Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale University, Cummins Engine Headquarters and J. Irvin Miller Estate (Indiana), and Caneel Bay Resort (St John, U.S. Virgin Islands). After a distinguished 50-year career, Curtis retired in 2015.

---

<sup>104</sup> The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Remembering Jack Curtis."

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Abate, C.J. "Timex keeps on ticking with new headquarters." *The Middletown Press*. July 22, 2001. Accessed June 26, 2024, <https://www.middletownpress.com/news/article/Timex-keeps-on-ticking-with-new-headquarters-11905534.php>.

American Institute of Architects (AIA)-New Jersey. "Goals for Centennial Include Focusing On Future Growth, Leadership." May 3, 2010. Accessed June 26, 2024, <https://aia-nj.org/blog/2010/05/03/fletcher-thompson-architecture-and-engineering-firm/>.

*Architecture*. "A New Age of Officing: Recent Office Buildings Bode Well for Worker Health—and the Planet," May 2005. New York: VNU Business Media, Inc: 64-65.

Bellapart. "Timex Group Headquarters," 2024. Accessed June 26, 2024, <https://www.bellapart.com/project/timex-group-headquarters/#:~:text=The%20façade%20of%20the%20Timex,highly%20transparent%20insulating%20glass%20facades>.

Chusid, Michael. "Public Musings on Acoustical Privacy." *Architectural Record*. September 2001, pp. 163-172.

*Connecticut Architect*. "Fletcher Thompson Design Chosen "Office of the Year." September-October 1976: 15.

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office. ConnCRIS Public Viewer. Accessed July 16, 2024. <https://conncris.ct.gov/>.

Disbrow, Douglas. "Design for the Experience of Making: Timex Corporation World Headquarters, Middlebury, CT." ZeroElevenDesign (zed), website not active, 2011.

—. (principal architect, Timex Corporate Headquarters), in discussion with author. July 12, 2024.

—. Douglas Disbrow. *Home* [LinkedIn page]. Accessed June 26, 2024, [https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglas-disbrow-3944aa33?trk=people-guest\\_people\\_search-card](https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglas-disbrow-3944aa33?trk=people-guest_people_search-card).

Eubanks, Caroline. "Office Design Trends Through the Decades." *Architectural Digest* September 28, 2023. Accessed July 26, 2024, <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/office-design-trends-through-the-decades>.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State

Fletcher Thompson, Inc. "History," Internet Archive, n.d. Accessed June 26, 2024,  
[http://www.fletcherthompson.com/about\\_history.aspx](http://www.fletcherthompson.com/about_history.aspx).

—. "Timex Corporate Headquarters Middlebury, CT." Internet Archive. Accessed June 26, 2024.  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20070808171341/http://www.fletcherthompson.com/project.aspx?id=38>.

Fred. Olsen Seawind, "Our Legacy," 2024. Accessed July 12, 2024,  
<https://fredolsenseawind.com/legacy/>.

—. "About Fred.Olsen Seawind." 2024. Accessed July 12, 2024,  
<https://fredolsenseawind.com/about/>.

Fred. Olsen Windcarrier. "Block Island." 2024. Accessed July 12, 2024,  
<https://windcarrier.com/track-record/case-studies/block-island/>.

Giorgio Galli Design Lab. "Giorgio Galli." 2023. Accessed October 21, 2024,  
<https://www.galldesign.com/about/>.

Hanley, Christine. "Timex decides to keep ticking in Connecticut." *Hartford Courant* June 3, 1993, D1,D7. Accessed July 1, 2024, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/175578307/>.

Iovine, Julie V. "Arthur Edwin Bye, Natural Garden Designer, Dies at 82." *The New York Times*, December 17, 2017, Section F, Page 5. Accessed July 19, 2024,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/17/nyregion/arthur-edwin-bye-natural-garden-designer-dies-at-82.html>.

Lieber, Ron. "Timex Resets Its Watch." *Fast Company*, November 2001: 48.

McDermott, Kathleen. *Timex: A Company and Its Community, 1854-1998*. n.p.: Timex Corporation, 1998.

Muller, Donald. "Everyman's Time: The Rise and Fall of Connecticut Clockmaking." *Connecticut Explorer* (Fall 2007). Accessed July 11, 2024,  
<https://www.ctexplored.org/everymans-time-the-rise-and-fall-of-connecticut-clockmaking/#:~:text=Connecticut's%20clock%20and%20watch%20industry,gears%20and%20finely%20engraved%20dials>.

Natural Trust for Historic Preservation. "The Glass House." Accessed July 23, 2024,  
<https://savingplaces.org/places/glass-house>.

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive. *The Federal Commitment to Green Building: Experiences and Expectations*. Washington D.C: Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, 2010.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

Olsen, Fred. "Introduction." In Kathleen McDermott, *Timex: A Company and Its Community, 1854-1998*. n.p.: Timex Corporation, 1998.

*Record Journal*. "Timex loses grant, but stays." *Record-Journal* (Meriden, Connecticut) Tue, December 20, 1994. Accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/677335466/>.

Rell, M. Jodi. Letter to Timex Group USA, February 5, 2009. Connecticut Digital Archive. Accessed July 12, 2024, <https://ctdigitalarchive.org/node/3429371?search=timex>.

Shuster, William George. "Timex ends 56 years of watchmaking in the U.S." *JCK*, June 22, 2001. Accessed October 21, 2024, <https://www.jckonline.com/editorial-article/timex-ends-56-years-of-watchmaking-in-the-us/#:~:text=Until%20last%20year%2C%20Timex's%20Little%20Rock%20factory%2C,Timex's%20watch%20assembly%20facilities%20in%20the%20Philippines>.

Schwartz, Ariel. "Timex Unveils Connecticut's Largest Solar Array." *GreenBiz*, February 6, 2009. Accessed June 26, 2024. <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/timex-unveils-connecticuts-largest-solar-array>.

Soule, Alexander. "Timex moves to Shelton office, stays in Connecticut after selling Middlebury headquarters." *CTInsider*, July 12, 2024. Accessed July 15, 2024, <https://www.ctinsider.com/business/article/timex-shelton-middlebury-ct-headquarters-19569283.php>.

Sullivan, C.C. "A New Age of Officing: Recent Office Buildings Bode Well for Worker Health—and the Planet." *Architecture* (May 2005). New York: VNU Business Media, Inc.: 64-65.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Remembering Jack Curtis." June 4, 2020. Accessed July 19, 2024. <https://www.tclf.org/remembering-jack-curtis>.

—. "Arthur Edwin Bye, Jr. Biography." February 16, 2024, accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.tclf.org/arthur-edwin-bye-jr-biography>.

—. "Arthur Edwin Bye, Jr. Pioneer Information." Accessed July 19, 2024, <https://www.tclf.org/pioneer/arthur-edwin-bye-jr>.

*The Day*. "Timex Buys Land for Headquarters Complex," October 12, 1997.

The Hyatt Foundation. "Headquarters for Timex, Connecticut, USA. *Sir Norman Foster – The Pritzker Architecture Prize 1999*. Accessed October 21, 2024, <https://usmodernist.org/nfoster-pritzker.pdf>.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

Timex Corporation. *Watch Hill: A Walking Tour*. Booklet. Middlebury, CT: Timex Corporation, 2001.

Timex Group. "About Timex." 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timex.com/pages/about-us?srsId=AfmBOooSCS8jDJuJUBsJj5AXozEwntvemto1-9w63tQYF-r3IU6jJPeF>.

—. "American Documents®." 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timex.com/pages/search-results?q=american+documents>.

—. "Timex Group." 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timexgroup.com/>.

—. "Smart Watches," 2024, accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timex.com/collections/smartwatches?page=1#product-6907541225555-32491695177811>.

—. "Watchmaking," 2024. Accessed October 21, 2024, <https://timexgroup.com/watchmaking/>.

Tully, Shawn. "Norway's most radical billionaire." *Fortune* March 7, 2015. Accessed June 26, 2024, <https://fortune.com/2015/03/07/fred-olsen/>.

Turmelle, Luther. "Timex sells Connecticut headquarters, considering future in home state." *CTInsider* October 3, 2023. Accessed June 29, 2024, <https://www.ctinsider.com/business/article/timex-group-sells-ct-headquarters-18394798.php>.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 1955 Woodbury Quadrangle, Connecticut, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic). Photorevised 1984. Reston, VA: U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

University of Connecticut. AirPhoto 1934 CT. 1934 Aerial Imagery. Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online. Accessed July 11, 2024, <https://maps.cteco.uconn.edu/viewers/#aerial>.

—. Airphoto 2004 CT NAD83 meters. 2004 Aerial Imagery. Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online. Accessed July 11, 2024, <https://maps.cteco.uconn.edu/viewers/#aerial>.

—. CT Parcel Viewer (2020). Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online. Accessed July 11, 2024, <https://maps.cteco.uconn.edu/viewers/#aerial>.

Waytkus, Liz. "Docomomo US Theme 2024: Corporate Campuses." *Docomomo*, December 6, 2023. Accessed July 25, 2024, <https://www.docomomo-us.org/news/annual-theme-corporate-campuses>.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Private collection of Doug Disbrow, architect

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 92.3

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.5139285                      Longitude: -73.1493527
2. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
3. Latitude:                                      Longitude:
4. Latitude:                                      Longitude:



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property follows the boundaries of the former parcel at 555 Christian Road, previously identified as Parcel 1501, Map 7-04 Lot 009, in the Town of Middlebury's assessment records through fall, 2023. The majority of this parcel was combined with the parcel at 764 Southford Road in fall, 2023; the new 77.04-acre parcel is known as Parcel No. 7-04/007. A linear 34.88-acre section of the original parcel containing land and wetlands, flanking Christian Road, was subdivided and is now identified as 555 Christian Road, Parcel No. 7-04/009. The boundary of the nominated property is shown on Figure 2a. Current parcel lines are shown on Figure 2b.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

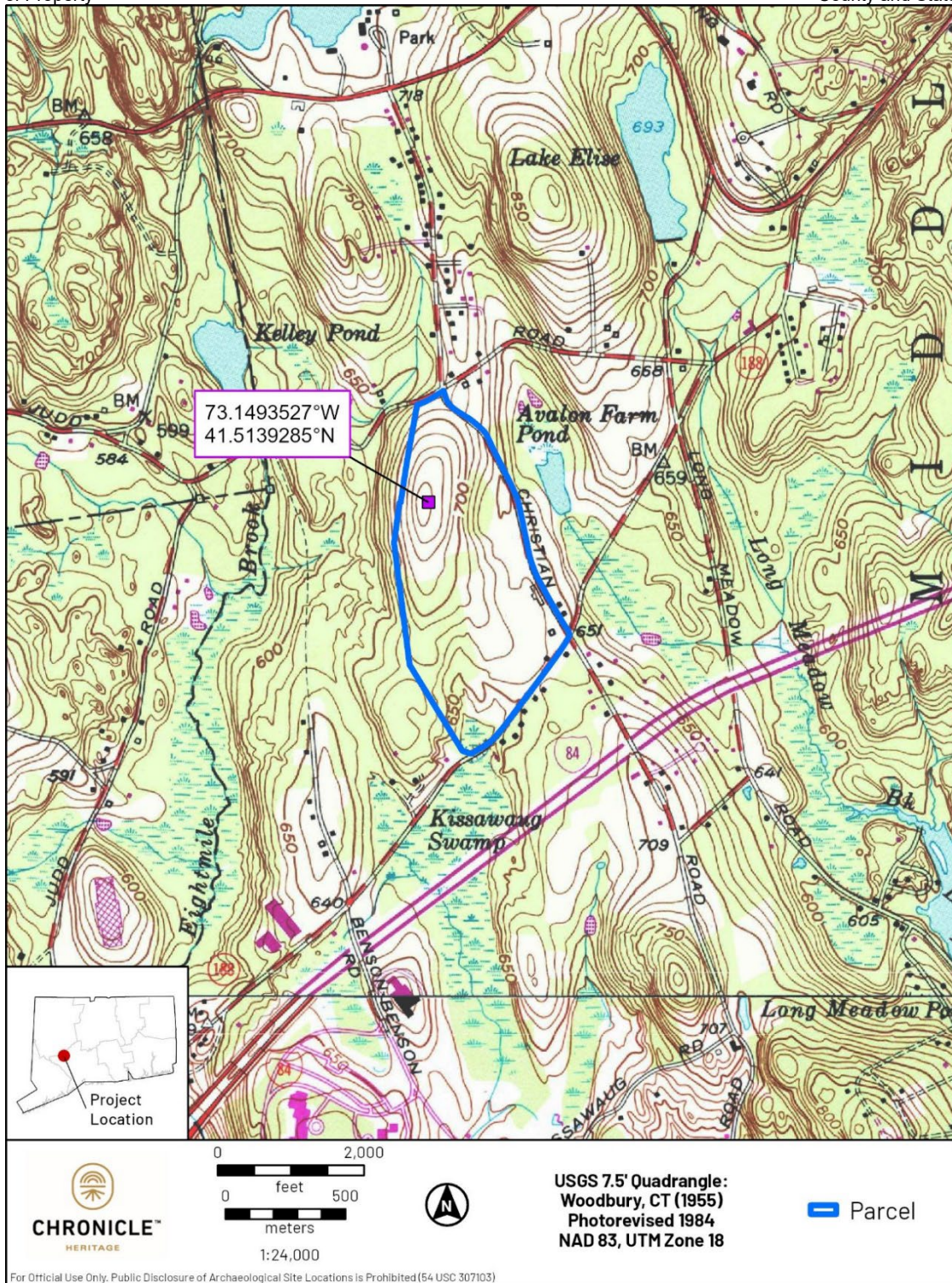
The boundary is drawn according to the original parcel purchased for use as the Timex Corporate Headquarters, beginning in 2001.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut

Name of Property

County and State



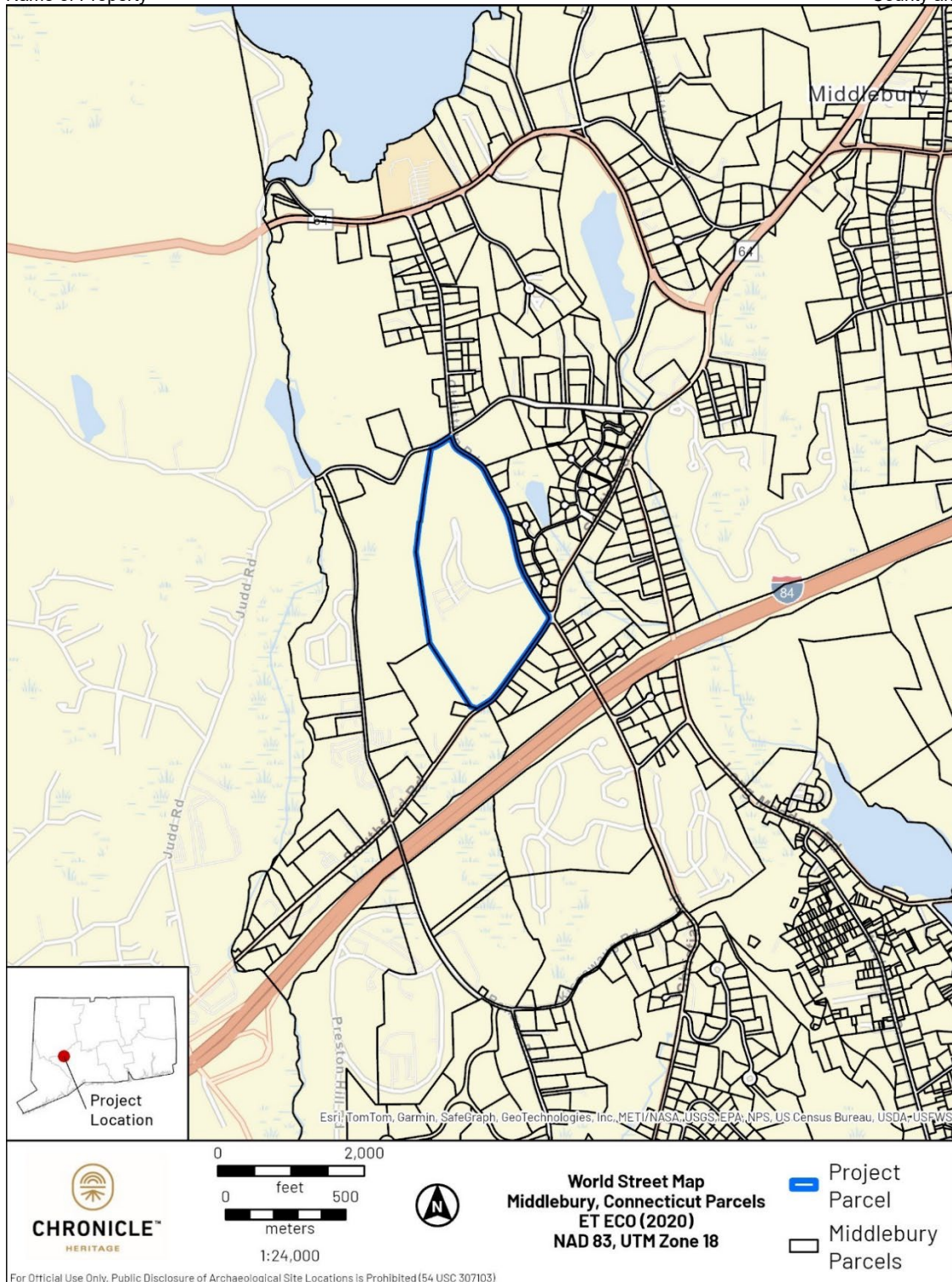
**Figure 1. Location of Timex Corporate Headquarters at 555 Christian Road, Middlebury, New Haven County, Connecticut (location now merged into the parcel at 764 Southford Rd).**



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State

Name of Property



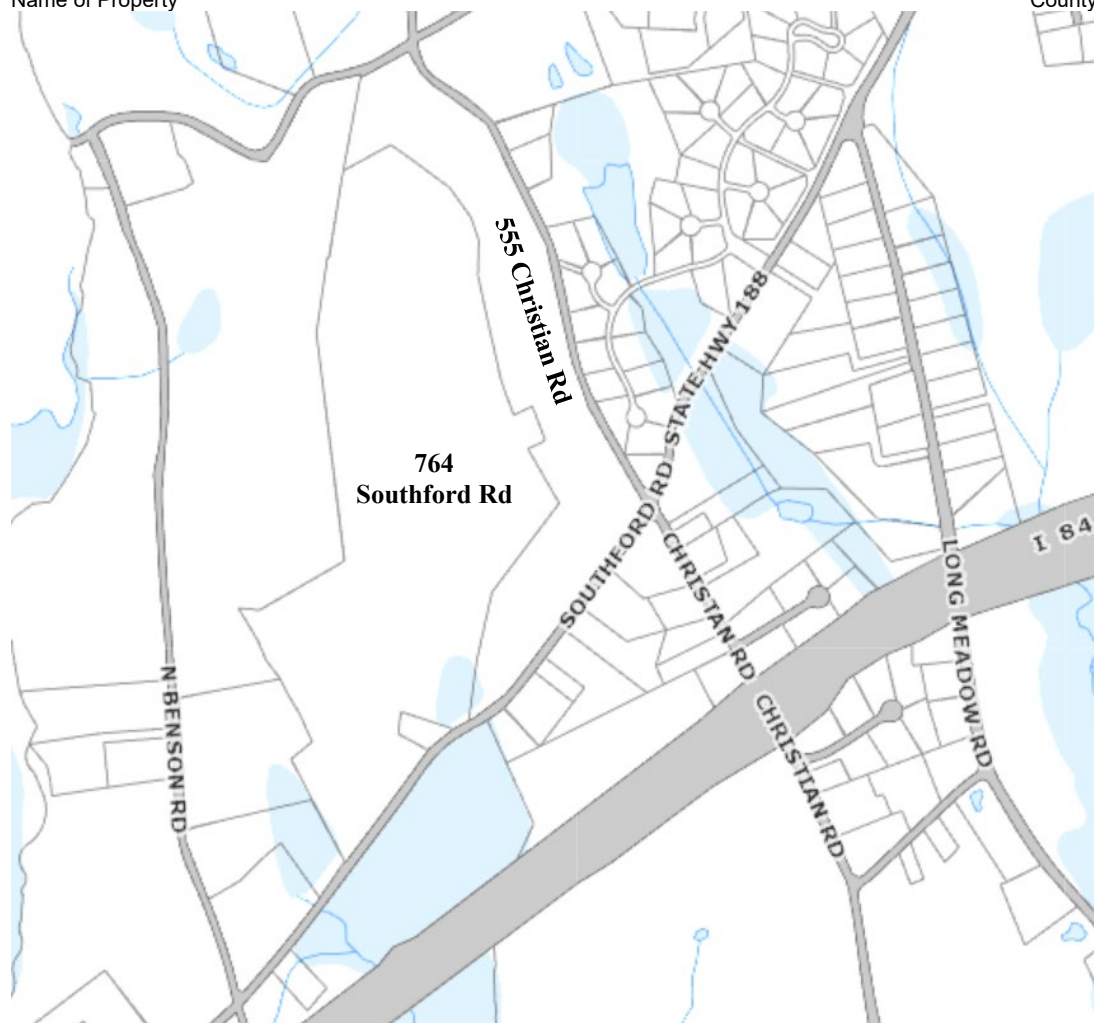
**Figure 2a. Location of Timex Corporate Headquarters, Middlebury, New Haven County, Connecticut. Boundary of nominated property is consistent with the limits of the former parcel at 555 Christian Road (prior to merging and subdivision of the parcel in fall, 2023).**

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State



**Figure 2b. Screenshot of Town of Middlebury GIS data, November 4, 2024, showing new parcel lines.**

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Christine M. Longiaru, M.A.  
organization: Chronicle Heritage  
street & number: 20 Hagerty Boulevard, Suite 3  
city or town: West Chester state: Pennsylvania zip code: 19382  
e-mail clongiaru@chronicleheritage.com  
telephone: 610.436.9000  
date: August 8, 2024

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

**New Haven, Connecticut**

County and State

---

### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



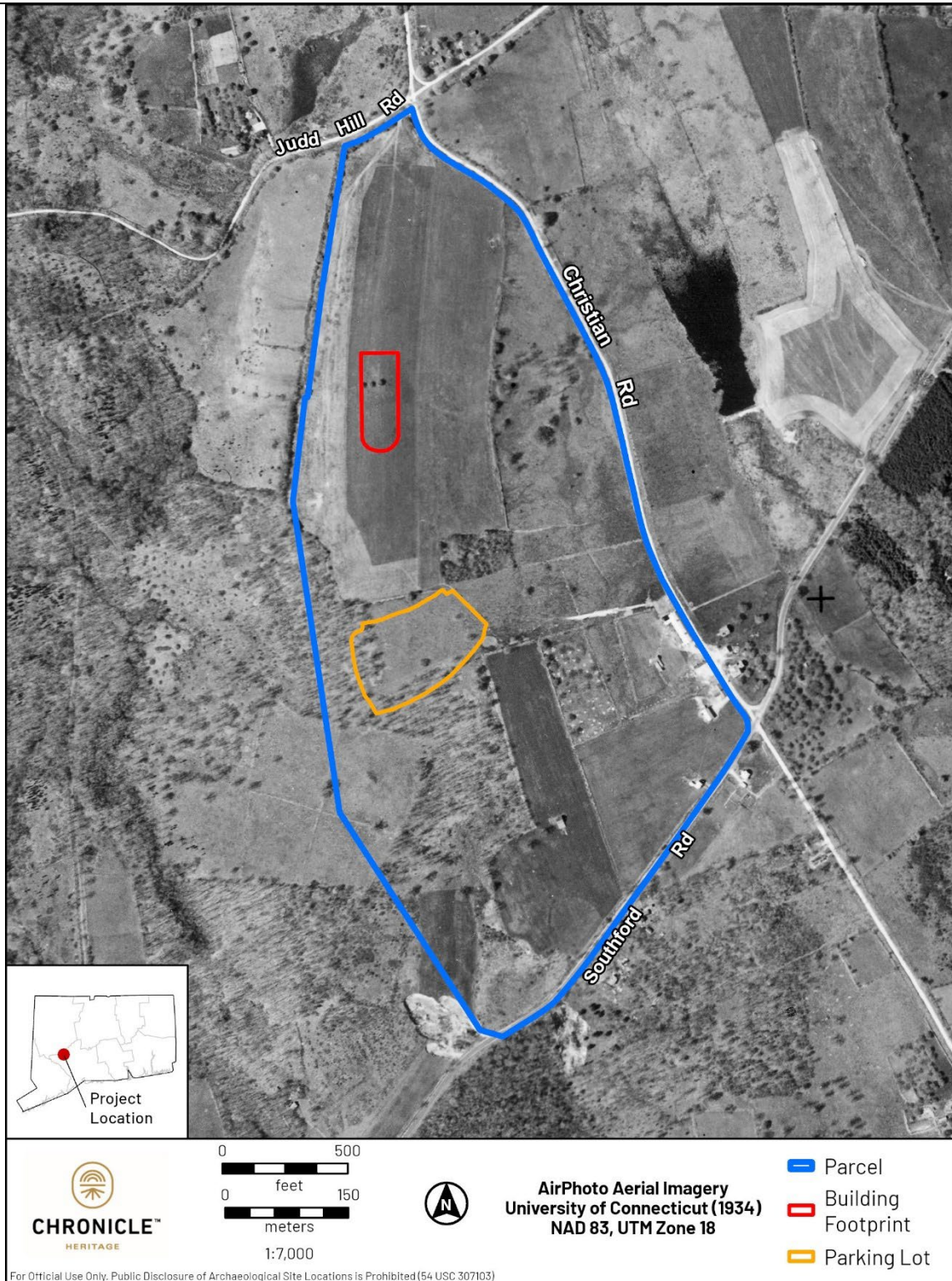
**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

**Figures**



**Figure 3. Aerial imagery of Timex Corporate Headquarters property in 1934.**



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

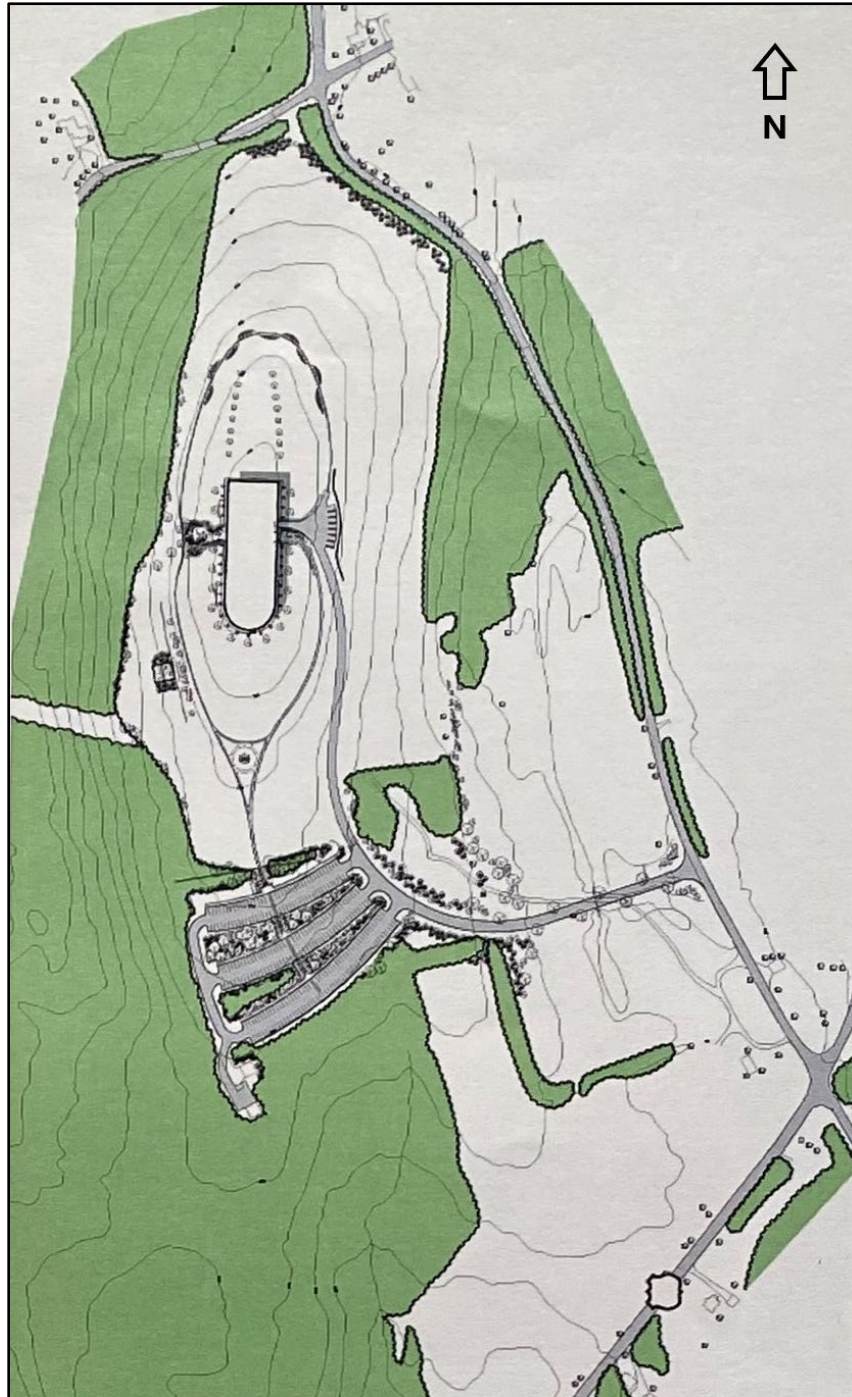


**Figure 4. Aerial imagery of Timex Corporate Headquarters in 2004.**



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

**New Haven, Connecticut**  
County and State



**Figure 5. Timex Corporate Headquarters site plan (Fletcher Thompson, Inc, 2001).<sup>105</sup>**

<sup>105</sup> Figures 5–10 are reproduced courtesy of Douglas Disbrow, from his personal collection.  
Sections 9-end page 48

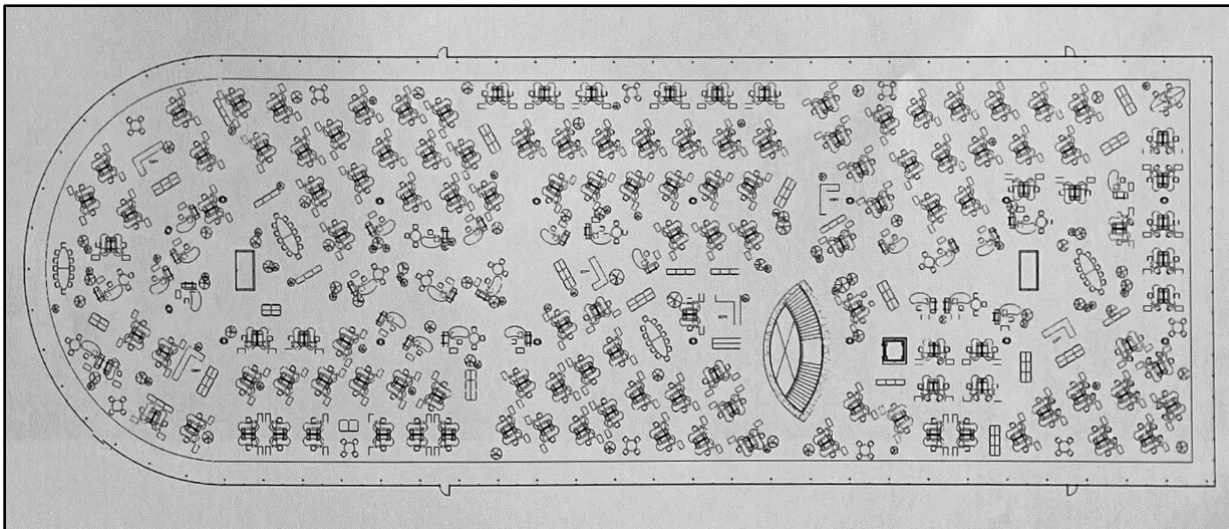


**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

**New Haven, Connecticut**  
County and State



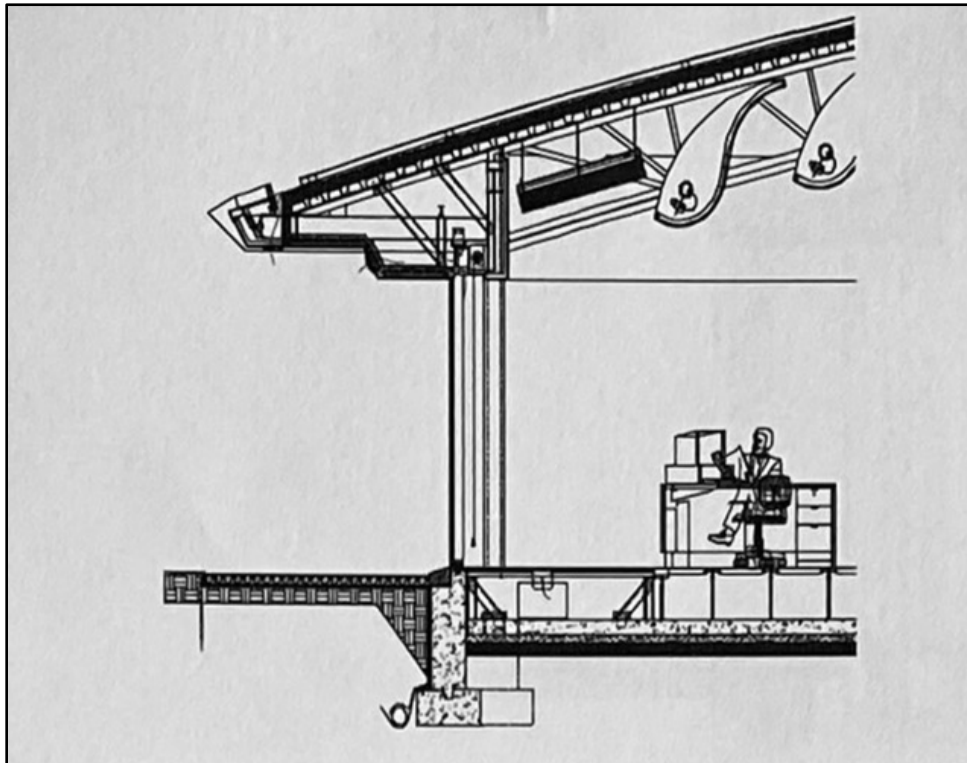
**Figure 6. View of the Timex Corporate Headquarters building site prior to construction** (*Fletcher Thompson, Inc., 2001*).



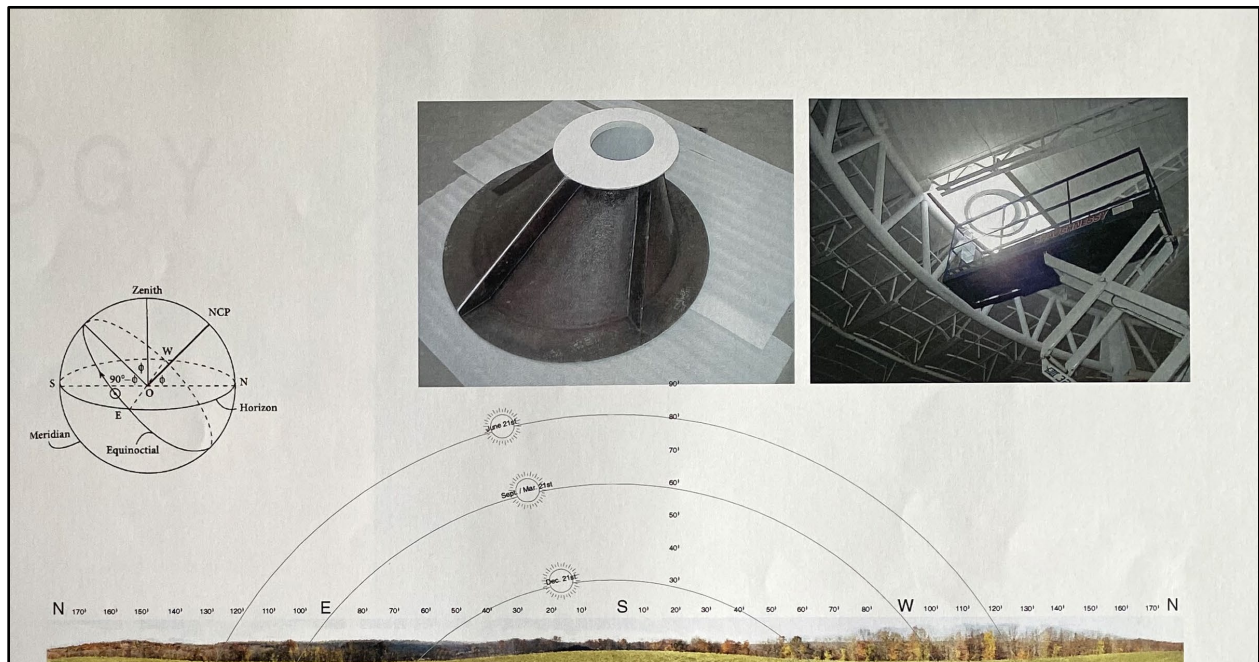
**Figure 7. Main office floor, Timex Corporate Headquarters** (*Fletcher Thompson, Inc., 2001*).

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut  
County and State



**Figure 8. Cross section of plenum floor and workstation (Fletcher Thompson, Inc., 2001).**



**Figure 9. Oculus in south end of Timex Corporate Headquarters (Fletcher Thompson, Inc., 2001).**

*Fletcher Thompson, Inc, 2001).*



**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State



**Figure 10.** The 45,000 square foot main floor at Timex Corporate Headquarters (*Fletcher Thompson, Inc., 2001*).

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Timex Corporate Headquarters

City or Vicinity: Town of Middlebury

County: New Haven

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Fletcher Thompson, Inc., corporate photographer. Photographs reproduced from the personal collection of Doug Disbrow

Date Photographed: 2001

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 15. View of setting from Timex Road, facing northwest.
- 2 of 15. View of hillside setting from Timex Road, facing west-northwest.
- 3 of 15. View of south elevation, facing north.
- 4 of 15. View of north elevation and meadow, facing south.
- 5 of 15. View of north elevation, facing south.
- 6 of 15. View of east and north elevations at night, facing southwest.
- 7 of 15. View of hillside setting from Timex Road, facing west-northwest.
- 8 of 15. View of entrance on east elevation, facing southwest.
- 9 of 15. View of south elevation, facing northeast.
- 10 of 15. View of retaining wall and roof detail on east elevation, facing southwest.

**TIMEX CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**

Name of Property

11 of 15. View of Woodhenge, facing north.

12 of 15. View of main lobby staircase, facing southwest.

13 of 15. View of open work stations on main office floor, facing southwest.

14 of 15. View of window wall on main office floor, facing south.

15 of 15. View of ceiling detail, main floor, facing southwest

New Haven, Connecticut

County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

**Timex Corporate Headquarters  
National Register Nomination Photographs (2001)**



Photograph 1. View of setting from Timex Road, facing northwest.



Photograph 2. View of hillside setting from Timex Road, facing west-northwest.





Photograph 3. View of south elevation, facing north.



Photograph 4. View of north elevation and meadow, facing south.



Photograph 5. View of north elevation, facing south.



Photograph 6. View of east and north elevations at night, facing southwest.





Photograph 7. View of hillside setting from Timex Road, facing west-northwest.



Photograph 8. View of entrance on east elevation, facing southwest.



Photograph 9. View of south elevation, facing northeast.



Photograph 10. View of retaining wall and roof detail on east elevation, facing southwest.



Photograph 11. View of Woodhenge, facing north.



Photograph 12. View of main lobby staircase, facing southwest.





Photograph 13. View of open work stations on main office floor, facing southwest.



Photograph 14. View of window wall on main office floor, facing south.



Photograph 15. View of ceiling detail, main floor, facing southwest.

In re: Timex Headquarters Building, 555 Christian Road, Middlebury, CT

AFFIDAVIT OF NICHOLAS W. STULLER

I, Nicholas W. Stuller being duly sworn, depose and say:

I am at least eighteen years of age and appreciate the significance of an oath.

I have direct and personal knowledge of the following:

I am the president of Save Historic Middlebury, Inc., a Connecticut nonstock corporation and 501c(3) charitable organization organized to support preservation of culturally and historically significant sites and structures in Middlebury.

I have caused this Affidavit to be prepared in support of a proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places of the Timex Headquarters Building and site located at 555 Christian Road, Middlebury, Connecticut.

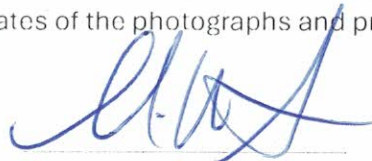
I visited the site and viewed the exterior of the building on October 3, 2023. I was inside the building for about 75 minutes and had opportunity to view the interior throughout.

I visited the site again on August 11, 2024, and viewed the exterior of the building and the interior of it through the exterior walls, which afford an unobstructed view of the interior. Because of the open space design and layout of the interior, I had unobstructed views of the interior.

I reviewed the proposed nomination and exhibits, including photographs of the site, building exterior and building interior on August 12, 2024.

From my observations of the exterior and interior of the building, I can tell that the photographs attached to the proposed nomination are, despite their age, true and accurate depictions of the current state of the site and structure.


From my observations there have been no substantial or significant change in conditions or appearance of the site and structure between the dates of the photographs and present times.



Nicholas W. Stuller, Affiant

COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN :  
: SS: MIDDLEBURY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT :

Subscribed and sworn to me to me, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.



Philip N. Walker  
Commissioner of the Superior Court



In re: Timex Headquarters Building, 555 Christian Road, Middlebury, CT

AFFIDAVIT OF KARA COLLINS

I, Kara Collins, being duly sworn, depose and say:

I am at least eighteen years of age and appreciate the significance of an oath.

I have direct and personal knowledge of the following:

I am a director of Save Historic Middlebury, Inc., a Connecticut nonstock corporation and 501c(3) charitable organization organized to support preservation of culturally and historically significant sites and structures in Middlebury.

I have caused this Affidavit to be prepared in support of a proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places of the Timex Headquarters Building and site located at 555 Christian Road, Middlebury, Connecticut.

I visited the site and viewed the exterior of the building on August 11, 2024.

I saw the building's exterior. I saw the interior of it through the exterior walls. Those walls are glass and allowed unobstructed views into the interior.

I have reviewed the proposed nomination and exhibits, including photographs of the site, building exterior and building interior on August 12, 2024.

From my observations of the exterior and interior of the building, I can tell that the photographs attached to the proposed nomination are, despite their age, true and accurate depictions of the current state of the site and structure.

I saw no substantial or significant change in conditions or appearance of the site and structure between the dates of the photographs and present times.

*Kara Collins*  
Kara Collins, Affiant

COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN :  
: SS: MIDDLEBURY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT :

Subscribed and sworn to me to me, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.  
*Philip N. Walker*  
Philip N. Walker  
Commissioner of the Superior Court